Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter discusses the introduction that consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, limitation of the problem, research questions, purposes of the study, and significance of the study. The organization of the chapter also be discussed in this chapter. The following section starts with the background of the study.

Background of the study

Becoming active students in the English teaching and learning process is imperative for students in order to be successful in their study. Becoming active students includes being active inside and outside classroom activities. In the classroom activities, students should participate in the classroom lessons. They do exercises given by the teachers, present topics in front of class, read the materials, discuss solutions to certain problems or other required activities students should do in the classroom.

Students should also learn outside classroom. They can join organizations, become volunteer at several major events, involve; international conferences, and enrol in international student exchange programs. Joining an organization is doing activities for particular purposes outside of classroom activities. Many students want to join the organization because they want to have experience and knowledge. The students also want to become volunteers at several major events. The students offer themselves to be directly involved in a social movement, whether it is in governmental organizations, private organizations, or campus
organizations. In addition, one of the best activity the students can perform is joining an international students exchange program.

International students exchange program is a program that is provided to the students to study in the other universities at foreign countries. To join an international exchange program, there are several processes that must be passed by students such as, making a curriculum vitae, making a motivation letter, and preparing an academic transcript. In addition, students have several reasons to join an international students exchange program. One of them is that students want to improve their English speaking skills. Another one is that students have intention to expand their experiences to be immersed in international learning atmosphere. Besides, by joining an international students exchange program, they are willing to improve their communication skills for the sake of their future prospects.

Carlson, Burn, Useem, and Yachimowicz (1990) as cited in Lindsey (2005) stated that students who have joined international students exchange program obtain benefits in increasing English language skills. This statement in line with Collentine (2009) Llanes (2011) as cited in Llanes, Arno, and Mancho-Bares (2016) stated that learning in a country where the language is used is very effective to learn the language, especially for the development of oral skills. They also stated that impact of international students exchange program can develop English as a second language in countries where English can be used as a lingua franca. For example, Spanish Students with English as a second language studying in the Netherlands or German). In this context, the students join international students exchange program in a country where English used as a second language.
Based on the researcher’s experiences, an international student exchange program contributes many benefits to the students. Firstly, the students can improve their English language skills. This include the improvement of the students’ English language major skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Secondly, students have the opportunity to practice English language. According to Dwyer and Peters (2004), respondents who interacted with international people had the opportunity to practice language other than English. The last, students can improve self-confidence. While joining international students exchange program, students will fight alone, and they will not depend on others. Harper and Cormeraie (1995) as cited in Coleman (1998) describe international students exchange program helps students to improve their self-confidence. This statement is also in line with Llanes et al. (2016), the students gained in confidence in using English as their second language while joining international students exchange program. If the students want to be more confidence, they can join international students exchange program.

Besides benefits the students obtain, students face challenges when they join an international student exchange program. The first challenge is struggling with the language use in the destination country where the exchange program takes place. When the destination country does not use English as the first language, the participants of international exchange program may face difficulties in communicating with the people in the destination country. According to Tanaka and Ellis (2003) as cited in Tatsuki (2003), the study assures that language learning has focused on what students believe and how the learners’ background. Then, the students will struggle in communication with local people outside of
campus. This feeling may hamper the learning processes of the students who join an international student exchange program. The last, the students can feel culture shocked because of they stay in unfamiliar place. The limited number of the study on this topic in the context of this research encourage the researcher to choose an international student exchange program in the process of Learning English language to be the topic of the research, especially in English Language Education Department of Islamic Private University in Yogyakarta. The researcher intends to carry out a research on this topic with title’ Students’ Voices about Joining International Students Exchange Program in the Process of Learning English Language at University.

**Statement of the Problem**

An international student exchange program constitutes an interesting and popular activity among university students. This program offers significant contribution to students who want to develop their language competence, especially in their English language skills. However, this program also exposes the students with challenges that can inhibit students’ success in their learning process while they join the program. Despite of the existence of researches on this topic at different contextual sites, a research on this topic in the current contextual place is not yet available. This absence encourages the researcher to investigate this topic since such a research can propose new significant contributions for students, teachers, and university management.

Students who are willing to register to this program can seize the opportunity appropriately having the information from this research for the basis of their decision making. Teachers can take profits because the information gained
from this study can be strong foundation for them to advise for their students or other needed parties to join an international student exchange program. University management can also attain significant advantages for the purposes of developing international collaboration. These reasons indicate the importance of conducting the research on this topic.

**Limitation of the Problem**

This study only investigate students’ perception on joining international students exchange program. However, the researcher will not try to investigate the students who have joined international students exchange program for a few days, because the researcher need to know more students’ perceptions while joining international students exchange program more than 3 months, because the students have deep experiences in the process learning English language. Moreover, based on the background of the study and statement of the problems that have been explained, the researcher will only investigate the students of Islamic private university in Yogyakarta who have experienced in joining international students exchange program. The reason why the researcher only investigate students of Islamic Private university in Yogyakarta is because in the university have many students who have joined international students exchange program, and the participants are also easier to reach, because the researcher also study in the same area which in Yogyakarta.

**Research Questions**

To provide guideline for administering this research, the researcher formulate the research questions for this study as follow:
1. What are the benefits of joining international student exchange program in the process of Learning English language as perceived by the students?

2. What are the challenges of joining international student exchange program in the process of Learning English language as perceived by the students?

**Purposes of the Study**

The purposes of the study are:

1. To explore the benefits of joining international student exchange program in the process of Learning English language.

2. To investigate the challenges of joining international student exchange program in the process of Learning English language.

**Significance of the Study**

This research gives many benefits for the students, the lecturer, the researcher, and the future researcher.

**For students.** They can get much information about the benefits of joining international students exchange program, especially in Learning English language process. They can learn from previous students who have joined international student exchange program. It also improves students’ motivation to join international students exchange program. In other hand, the students can also anticipate the challenges they will face when joining international students exchange program.

**For the lecturer.** This research is expected to guide the students to prepare all the things about international student exchange program. Lecturers can
help the students to prepare their curriculum vitae, motivation letter, give support, and give motivation to the students.

**For the researcher.** The result of this research can encourage the researcher to learn more knowledge from other people’s experiences, especially in the process of Learning English language.

**For the future researchers.** The future researchers can take result of this study to be their underpinning foundation to decide their research area. In addition, the researchers can take the finding of this research to be the references for their study.

**Organization of the Chapter**

The main title of this research is Students’ Voices about Joining International Students Exchange Program in the Process of Learning English Language at University. This research contains five chapters. The first chapter is introduction to the study. In this chapter, there are background of this research, the statement of the problem, delimitation of the study, research questions, and purposes of the study. Both significant and the outline of the study are also included in this chapter.

The second chapter is literature review. This chapter provides all the information and basic theory that cover a topic discussion of this study. There are process of Learning English language, international students exchange program, benefits and challenges of joining international students exchange program, review of related study, and conceptual framework.

The third chapter is methodology. This chapter gives a clear illustration on how this research was conducted and how the data was collected. It consists of
the research methodology, research design, research setting, and participants of the research. Data collection methods, data collection procedure, and data analysis are also provided in this chapter.

The fourth chapter is finding and discussion. This chapter presents findings obtained from the interview. This chapter also included discussion which related findings and literature to get the conclusion.

Chapter five is conclusion and recommendation. Conclusion was obtained after the researcher related findings and theories. In addition, this research provided recommendation for students, lecturer, and future researchers.