CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Languages with their complex implications for identify communication, social investigation, education and development are of great importance for sociolinguistic human languages have changed in the age of globalization, no longer tied to stable communities, they move across the globe, and change in the process. Nowadays, people develop some knowledge and ability in a second language and so become bilingual. Spolsky (1998:45) defines the bilingual is a person who has some functional ability in second language.

English language has spread over the world in accordance with increasing global communication which creates intelligibility of language. In every nation, English as International language also has affected every dimension of human.

For Asian students, English could be categorized as EFL (English as a foreign language) or ESL (English as a second language) fits of their purposes in language learning. For Indonesian example, English still categorized as EFL, but in Malaysia and Singapore, English language have puposes as ESL for them. English as a foreign language is mainly used to talk about foreign students (whose first language is not English) learning English while living in their own country. Whereas, English as a second language is mainly used to talk about foreign students learning English while living in a English-speaking country. For this study, students of Shafiyyatul Amaliyyah International
School could be called as ELLs based on the purpose and definition of ELLs itself. ELLs are students who are unable to communicate fluently or learn effectively in English, who often come from non English–speaking backgrounds, and who typically require specialized or modified instruction in both the English language and their academic courses.

English- language learners may also be students who were formerly classified as limited English proficient, but who have since acquired English-languages abilities that have allowed them to transition into regular academic courses taught in English. Shafiyyatul Amaliyyah International School is one of schools in North of Sumatera which use foreign curriculum and International class. So that is why this school was chosen as the object of this study case. In that school, there are three class for each grade that categorized as international class, students and teachers use English as language instruction for lesson.

Based on the definition of ELLs above, researcher was chosen senior high school students in Shafiyyatul Amaliyah International School as respondents in this research because they could be categorized as ELLs, which has many problematic in language learning for English language than other students from state-owned school.

In a thesis about an investigation of Thai students’ English language problems and their learning strategies in the international program at Mahidol University written by Pawapatcharudom. The result was writing skill as the most dominant language problem for Thai students. But based on the result of the observation for this study case, the most
problem in English which experienced by Senior High School is reading comprehension (reading skill) because it was included in their competence to pass the grade.

Based on the problems above, the researcher was investigated what are English language problems experienced by senior high school students and how do they overcome the problems. This research was conducted in one of International school in Medan, Shafiiyatul Amaliyyah International School. The data for this research were answer sheet of questionnaire which was answered by the students and interview’s transcript of students’ recording.

1.2 Problems of The Study

Based on the previous background, this study aims to clarify the English language problems in Shafiiyatul Amaliyah International School. The problems are formulated on the following.

1. What are the dominant English language problems experienced by Indonesian students at Shafiiyatul Amaliyyah International School?

2. How do the students apply the learning strategies to overcome the problem?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

The present research aims to answer research problem and the objectives specifically are in the following :

1. To find out the dominant English language problems experienced by Indonesian students at Shafiiyatul Amaliyyah International school.

2. To describe how the students apply the theory of learning strategies to overcome their problem.
1.4 Scope of The Study

There are many aspects that can be discussed with this study about investigation of English language problem. In this case, this study is limited on analysis of result of questionnaire, analysis of dominants English language problem based on related theories and how students overcome their problem according previous theories of learning strategies which had experienced by senior high school students in Shafiyyatul Amaliyyah.

1.5 Significances of The Study

The significance of this study are divided into two. Theoretically and practically significances. Theoretically, it is expected that the findings dominant English Language Problem experienced by students in senior high school level based on the theory of language problem and learning strategies can be used as a reference to other research about investigation of language problem. Practically, it is expected that the findings can be useful for the guiding information for the readers and for information, idea for other researcher is who want to carry out further on English Language Problem of Indonesian students.