

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Many forms of leisure travels are seen as luxurious, consumerism and “hedonistic” (Urry, 1990). This study proposes that even travelling without formal learning activities, it can facilitate opportunities for learning. According to Ritchie (2003), there are some forms of tourism activities that can provide learning opportunities such as special interest holidays, field trips study, and study tours or excursions.

Study excursion or field trip is usually used by the students to explore foreign countries. English department in State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya has a study excursion as a program for the fifth semester students. The trips are done by English department students by going abroad to some neighbouring countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. The trip was done by a group of people from one place to other places to explore the culture, custom, language, tourism destination and etc. The activities which done by the students during study excursion or field trip as learning opportunities are observing tourism destination, implementing tour planning subject, trying work in a group, learning about reservation something such as (accommodation, transportation, and tourism destination), managing the time, and etc.

Study excursion can also develop the generic skills for the students. Generic skills are also known in many forms such as soft skills, key skills, common skills, essential skills, employability skills, basic skills, necessary skills, competencies skills, and transferable skills. The students can get the generic skills when they do the study excursion by spending time together to explore, to find new things, to have and share a common experience. Before the students are travelling to different countries, the students should find and learn about cultural information as well as common practices in that country for a better social experience. Then, when the students travel in the countries, the students can maximize the opportunity to socialize with locals, learn a thing or two different

from the country where they come from such as the language, the custom, culture and etc.

Although learning new things and skills could give desired benefits of study excursions, the learning effects of the study excursions have not been evaluated. The writer decided to know the experience in study excursion or field trip especially for the generic skills of the students themselves. Based on the information above, the writer was interested to examine the benefits of the study excursion in developing generic skills with the title **Students' Perceptions on Generic Skill Development through Study Excursion.**

### **1.2 Problem Formulation**

The aim of this study was to examine how the study excursions provide opportunities for developing generic skills for the students. Secondly, it was aimed to determine what generic skills they implicitly see themselves as developing as a result of their travelling activities the students' responses about their travel experience. Problems of this final report are formulated as the following:

1. Does the study excursion provide opportunities for experiential learning?
2. What generic skills of students develop as a result of their study excursion program?

### **1.3 Problem Limitation**

As one of credited subjects in curriculum, study excursion in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are offered as a compulsory to English students. These countries are specifically targeted because the destinations are close to Indonesia. Thus, this study tells about the educative outcomes and benefits of study excursion. The discussion started from learning and educational tourism definition. Before discussing about the educative effects of study excursion, a relation between study excursion and tourism will be addressed. Then the data

collected through questionnaire and interview some students were analyzed and presented.

#### **1.4 Research Purposes**

The purposes of this final report are as follows:

- a. To know whether study excursion provides opportunities for experiential learning.
- b. To find out the generic skills students' that develop as result of their study excursion program.

#### **1.5 Research Benefit**

Study excursion program is essential in improving our understanding of the effectiveness of the tourism activity as an educational program. The results can be used a guide to develop study excursion as a learning for English students of State Polytechnic of Sriwijaya .