CHAPTER I

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1.1 PROBLEMATIC SITUATION

The branches of Translation and Interpretation are essential in the professional formation to the ones who want to get a degree in the field of English. According to the profile, detailed in the catalog the UFG provides at the beginning of every career, the students graduated from the English Major can apply the learned skills in the areas of teaching as well as working as translators and interpreters from English to Spanish and vice versa; to accomplish the mentioned goals, the university must provided all of the elemental tools and resources.

An interpreter orally translates a speech in different languages or in sign language and must convey not only all elements of meaning, but also the intentions and feelings of the original source language speaker, in that way the listeners are going to perceive the message accurately.

Based on that, a professional who wants to develop his career working as an interpreter, must be well prepared and well qualified, in terms of knowing the basic elements that an interpretation requires; the university must provided students with all the elemental knowledge and steps during their formation.

Nowadays, the UFG Language Department counts on a qualified human resource that develops the subject in issue, but they do not count on the enough written material that could help them to grant their classes in an integral manner, so that the students can take advantage of the knowledge provided in order to become more qualified professionals. This analysis led the researchers to state the following question:
1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Which benefits for the teaching learning process, the elaboration of a translation and interpretation practical guide for the subject “Translation and Interpretation English – Spanish” will carry out?

1.3 JUSTIFICATION

It has been identified that a low performance of the English Major Professionals at the time of interpreting from English to Spanish and vice-versa exists; that is why the proposal of elaborating a practical manual for the subject Translation and Interpretation English – Spanish would be an excellent resource for teachers and students.

The teaching-learning process is affected by the lack of adequate resources to practice the theory learned in class. Teachers do not have the appropriate tools to developed their classes, it means, they have few teaching options and sometimes the class becomes monotonous; that makes teachers give an extra effort themselves, and in extreme cases, they do not give an objective grade to students work.

On the other hand, students are the most affected because the acquired knowledge is limited up to theory and less practice; there is not a balance between those areas.

It is noticeable that students that are studying or had studied are concerned because of the lack of practical material does not allow them to apply the theoretical knowledge, and this is one of the main problems at the moment of either translating or interpreting.

One of the most notorious difficulties is the lack of fluency when interpreting; this problem shows a low performance in grades; students do not have an easy guide to follow the proper steps in order to have an excellent interpretation.
Another concern is that students lose motivation for not having a specialized guide for the subject of translation and interpretation English-Spanish, students do not show any interest in the class because sometimes it becomes bored. Providing this easy and practical guide the teachers will facilitate the learning process because students will have the opportunity to practice.

Every term that has been mentioned before, states the necessity of a solution in order to improve students needs, and it is for this reason the researcher group has to develop this investigation to prove the necessity of the elaboration of a practical guide for Translation and Interpretation of English-Spanish and vice-versa, it will help students to have a better performance.

According to ISO 9000 norm, the UFG should provide all the necessary elements to prepare qualified professionals through an integral educational system, but that situation has not been accomplished by the University; that is why the elaboration of the Interpretation and Translation practical guide must be taken into account.
1.4 OBJECTIVES

1.4.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- To demonstrate the need to elaborate a practical guide for the subject Translation and Interpretation English – Spanish, in order to improve the translation and interpretation skills of the English major students at Universidad Francisco Gavidia.

1.4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To create a practical guide for students of the subject Translation and Interpretation English – Spanish at Universidad Francisco Gavidia.

- To propose the use of practical guide for students of the subject Translation and Interpretation English – Spanish at Universidad Francisco Gavidia.

1.5 RANGE AND DELIMITATIONS

The investigation took place within the campus of the Universidad Francisco Gavidia in San Salvador, in coordination with the Language Department and with the help of the students of English Major that had taken in previous semesters or were studying the subject “Translation and Interpretation English – Spanish” in the second semester of 2007; the schedule of the course was on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:50 to 6:30 in Ladislao Leiva Building, classroom C.¹

¹ Ladislao Leiva School, was a building rented by UFG during 2007, due to the students demand. It was located at 1a calle poniente and Roosevelt Street, Colonia Flor Blanca, San Salvador.