CHAPTER I
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1.1 Problematic Situation

Nowadays, reliable and well structured education is difficult to find. The everyday more demanding society requires well prepared, challenging and qualified professionals to get better development opportunities. Recently, it is more difficult for universities to have steady and well organized study programs in their different learning areas. For these reasons, students need to develop their knowledge through consistent and approachable information resources.

The study of a foreign language is a very difficult venture, mostly when students are not in contact with the target language every day. The success in acquiring a foreign language depends on, among other things, the day by day practice and the students' responsibility in finding material to accomplish the objectives of every single subject studied. In a general way, English students have a reduced field where they could research. Sooner or later, students realize that they have limited sources of specific information, just as small as the opportunity they have to speak English somewhere else out of the university.

When there is a fact that has been affecting English students in such way that their learning process is limited and deficient, teachers are the ones who have to deal with these problems and the limitations derived from the lack of specialized sources of information. Teachers have to find how to clarify the statements that are in the material studied and could be relevant for students, and they also have to find the answers to questions that the material for specific subjects cannot explain but tend to confuse due to its complexity.

In all learning processes, the knowledge about specific sciences, disciplines or issues is acquired under the base of the previous learning. Going from one stage to another without the certainty of having all those basic concepts well known and clear, can lead to risky situations that affect the learning process. Students may get confused if the information is not discriminated, due to many
concepts that are related to other disciplines. If the field of study is not delimited it could be possible to go over unnecessary information and, as a result, learning about a specific subject can be difficult because of the quantity of information to be selected and organized. To avoid these problems and make possible the development of the Teaching-Learning Process, it is necessary to have a satisfactory guide of information for teacher and students and through this, improve the educational progress. “Linguistics Introduction” is one of the most important subjects on the English Degree study plan. Students need to completely understand and master the information given in this class because, later on, they will require this information to understand the more advanced subjects of the English Degree and to study in depth the differences between English and Spanish Languages structures.

1.2 Statement of the Problem
For the reasons mentioned before, it is essential to investigate at what extend would the creation of a textbook improve the Teaching-Learning Process of the “Linguistics Introduction” subject of the English Major students?

1.3 Justification of the Problem
It is known that Francisco Gavidia University Library has a good quantity of material that could be useful to reinforce the learning process for most of the subjects of different Majors. But even so, deficiency in learning process is still a problem among English students. Professors are qualified and follow the subject study plan, programs are complete, sources of information are at the library, students try to study the material related to the subjects and go over pages and pages of information, but they do not understand important chapters or paragraphs of the material. Such lack of comprehension of the subject can lead students to develop indifference, and then it would be more difficult for teachers to manage a class when apathetic students are attending. It is also a problem trying to find what went wrong when students do not feedback about didactical issues due to an ignorance of the real cause of the deficiency in the Teaching-Learning Process.
A research must be done in order to analyze why the students and teachers do not reach their goals about the Teaching-Learning Process; but there have to be clear that not only by finding the answers to this issues will lead to a solution, but it will be the first step of an integral evaluation of the “Linguistics Introduction” subject. Researchers are conscious about the need for a solution, and it could be convenient to have a proposal directly from the ones who have been in the Teaching-Learning Process at Francisco Gavidia University, and have experienced some of the consequences of the lack of appropriate and specialized material for the subjects.

The Teaching-Learning Process could be reinforced by having a guide line to follow in every step of the subject study plan. In that way, information will be previously organized and filtered in order to make an easier understanding for students, as well as a better teacher performance. It will also make clearer for students the basic concepts due to the selection and simplification of the material, taking apart the unnecessary and complex theory.

“Linguistics Introduction” is a subject that implies to learn basic information to advance knowledge in the English Major. For that reason, it is important for the teacher to have a reliable source of information. The lack of specialized material in Linguistics causes teachers to make efforts in order to organize enormous quantities of material to create a source that fulfills the requirements of the subject, to facilitate information to students, and provide them tools to achieve the objectives of both, teachers and students.

After considering the advantages mentioned before, the researchers believe that counting on a reliable source for the “Linguistics Introduction” subject will benefit teachers, students, and therefore, the institution they represent, by improving the knowledge of the language they study. In that way, the university will accomplish its Mission and Vision by giving English Major Students, the opportunity of being well-prepared professionals to face the challenges of the different requirements of our society as well as to interact and succeed in everyday more demanding professional fields. Such kind of professionals will benefit even more the good name and prestige that the university already has,
increasing the population of students. The professional success will be turned into economic benefits for the English Major graduates.

Teachers will also experience the advantages of having a specialized textbook for a specific subject, they would avoid a quantity of redundant material and in that way they could save time and prepare discussion sceneries in which all the students will be aware of the topic to discuss. Confusion will be reduced thanks to a previous preparation in basic concepts process, based on the textbook outline, avoiding the students’ frustration when they do not find exactly what they need in other sources.

Finally, The University will be especially benefited by having their own specialized material, according to the requirements of the programmatic contents and to the needs of the students. Necessity will be evident, by means of the investigation that this research team is going to find a clear evidence to prove, that an existing need is impeding a higher proficiency level of English Major graduates.
1.4 Objectives of the Investigation

1.4.1 General Objective
- To investigate the necessity of the creation of a textbook for teaching “Linguistics Introduction” subject for students of the English Major at Francisco Gavidia University.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives
- To create a textbook for teaching the “Linguistics Introduction” subject, for students of the English Major at Francisco Gavidia University.
- To propose the use of a didactical aid for teaching the “Linguistics Introduction” subject, for students of the English Major at Francisco Gavidia University.

1.5 Ranges and delimitations

1.5.1 Ranges
- Students that have already taken the “Linguistics Introduction” subject. This population was considered due to their recent experience in the subject, and the feedback that can be provided by them.
- Students that are studying the “Linguistics Introduction” subject this semester. They were chosen because they have an updated point of view about the requirements, limitations and needs about the subject.
- Linguistics Introduction Teachers at the Francisco Gavidia University, they are included in the survey because their experience in teaching the subject is valuable resource of information about disadvantages presented during the classes.
1.5.2 Delimitation

- **Temporal delimitation:** The samples were selected from semester 01 of the year 2008, due to the accessible scenario for the researchers, because it was found that during this semester, a “Linguistics Introduction” class was being developed; in that way there could be the opportunity of having current experiences from teachers and students. The investigation will be developed during given period by the University, which is from April 1st to September 30th.

- **Spatial delimitation:** It was chosen the Francisco Gavidia University Campus because of the accessibility for the researchers to make a continuous investigation.