

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the background of the study, formulation of the research problem, purposes of the study, formulation of hypothesis, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

English is important to be learned because the most dominating languages in the world is English. Since English has become an international language, it has become increasingly necessary for international students to develop the language skills required to study in English, and to evolve strategies to assist this development. There are four skills in English; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Listening and reading are receptive skills, while speaking and writing are productive skills.

Listening takes the main role in language learning because before someone understands and starts to speak, they have to hear the sound, words, and speech pattern first (Dea, 2013). “Listening is typically the first language skill develop in first language users and acts as a key to other skills” According to Siegel (2015). Clearly, expecting students to create a sound that does not occur in their mother tongue in a natural sentence using the stress, rhythms, and intonation of a native speaker of foreign language is impractical without first supplying them with the necessary materials.

To learn listening skills, there are various ways, such as listening to spoken language frequently, doing conversation, listening to lecturers explain material using English and so on. Learning listening cannot be done by reading a book, but the learners have to hear and listen directly the results of the voice in the form of English. To increase the listening skill, it is necessary to do practice exercise continuously. If listening is good, indirectly speaking skills will also improve.

Several fun media can be used in learning listening skill. Beside some conversational or lessons material, English songs could be one option of good media to learn English listening skill. Especially in these days, English songs are available in every media. It is very easy to find English songs and many teenagers are really into those English songs.

Listen to the English song make the students will know either new vocabulary or pronunciation. The advantages of listening to the English song frequently are the students are not only get new vocabulary and pronunciation but also get relax. In this era (high technology) we don't feel hard anymore to listen to the song. We can listen to the song by using hand phone, because it is very useful and portable, so we can listen to song everywhere without limited space and time. Because students have learned a lot of vocabulary it can make it easier for students to do the listening test.

Harmer (2007) points out that the more the students hear and understand English being spoken, the more they absorb appropriate pitch and intonation, stress and the sounds of both individual words and those which

blend together in connected speech. In short, the more students listen, the better they get, not only at understanding speech, but also at speaking itself. Indeed, it is worth remembering that successful spoken communication depends not just on the ability of people to speak, but also on the effectiveness of the way people listen.

According to Abedi (2008: 193), the assessment of English language proficiency is a very important aspect of English language learners. Currently, there are many methods available to evaluate the level of individual English proficiency such as TOEFL, ILETS examination level and Cambridge ESOL (Tugan, 2013: 120). Among several methods, the TOEFL remains the most widely recognized and trusted English language test used for acceptance purposes worldwide since the Educational Testing Service (ETS) began offering it in 1964 (Manganello, 2011).

English test which is considered to be standardized in Indonesia is Test of English Proficiency (TOEP), which has been calibrated and proved to be able to predict English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (Madya, 2020). TOEP is widely used by educational institutions in Indonesia where currently students cannot graduate and get a degree if they have not passed the TOEP or equivalent test, for example at IAIN Tulungagung. Therefore, students are required to take TOEP in order to obtain information about the level of their mastery of English, especially before they attain to the thesis examination. The result of the TOEP test will be a requirement to apply the thesis examination.

TOEP is divided into three sections; Listening Comprehension Structure and Written Expression, and Reading Comprehension. When doing TOEP the listening section will be the first section. In this section the native speaker will read out the questions and the students have to listen them to answer the question. The student will have difficulty if the student does not practice listening to spoken language frequently and also does not master in vocabulary.

People's English proficiency has so far been measured through standardized tests developed by native speakers of English, such as the TOEFL, TOEP, TOIEC, and IELTS test. The standardization of such test, which is achieved through a series of activities to ensure that the test meets the requirements of successful test, is very costly to produce. These tests have fulfilled the criteria of good test in terms of content, the results are highly accurate in describing the level of test taker's English proficiency.

There are several studies related to listening. The first is a research entitled "The Correlation between Students' Habit in Listening Song and Students' English Listening Skill" by Nurjanah (2018). From the journal found that there is positive and significant correlation between students' habit in listening song and English listening skill.

The second is a thesis entitled "The Correlation between Students' Habits in Listening to English Songs and Their Vocabulary Mastery of The Eighth Grade Students at Mts Darissulaimaniyyah Durenan Trenggalek." by Rahmatullah (2020). The result from the research is there is a positive

correlation between correlation between students' habits in listening to English songs and their vocabulary mastery. From the previous study show that the habit of listening to English song is one of the positive activity to increase their listening skill.

Different from the listening test made by the researcher from previous study, TOEP has an international standard in measuring a people's English Proficiency so the results are very accurate in defining the level of English proficiency of the test taker. From this reason the writer choose the correlation between frequency listening to English song and listening comprehension scores in TOEP of English department students in IAIN Tulungagung as the topic.

B. Formulation of Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, the problem is formulated as follows "Is there any correlation between the frequency of listening to English songs and listening comprehension scores in TOEP of English department students in IAIN Tulungagung?".

C. Purpose of the Study

Based on the research problems above, this study intended to investigate the correlation between the frequency of listening to English songs and listening comprehension scores in TOEP of English department students in IAIN Tulungagung.

D. Formulation of Hypothesis

Based on the research question and objective, the hypotheses for this research are:

1. H_0 (null hypothesis)

There is no correlation between the frequency of listening to English songs and listening comprehension scores in TOEP of English department students in IAIN Tulungagung.

2. H_a (alternative hypothesis)

There is correlation between the frequency of listening to English songs and listening comprehension scores in TOEP of English department students in IAIN Tulungagung.

E. Significant of the Study

The research was conducted the research to provide some benefits in the area of English education as follows:

1. For English teachers

The researcher hopes that the result of this study can be useful for the teacher as one of the resources in teaching English which is can applied in the future.

2. For Students

The finding of the research will motivate the students to improve their listening skill ability trough listening English song.

3. For the future researcher

The researcher hopes that the research will be useful for the future researcher as the reference to make a further research. It is expected to future researcher to conduct the same research on wider area.

F. Scope and Limitation of the Study

To avoid research becomes wider, the researcher limits and focus to investigate the correlation between the frequency of listening to English songs and listening comprehension scores in TOEP of 6th semester English department students in IAIN Tulungagung 2020/2021.

G. Definition of Key Terms

1. Correlation

Correlation is a study intended to find the relationship between two variables. In this case, it investigates the relationship between students' frequency on listening English song and their listening comprehension skill.

2. Frequency

Frequency is the number of occurrences of a repeating event per unit time. In this research, the frequency means the students' intensity in listening to English song.

3. Listening to English song

Listening to English song is an activity of listen and hear the song having English as its language.

4. TOEP

TOEP stands for *Test of English Proficiency*. The test measures the participants' English proficiency indicated by the test score. TOEP accurately measures the level of English proficiency, particularly of receptive skills (listening and reading).