

STUDENTS' DIFFICULTIES IN LISTENING COMPREHENSION AT SMP SWASTA KENANGA MEDAN

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ABSTRACT

Listening is the skill in learning English language, listening help us understand and master language skill and make learners easier to communicate in that language. Listening is a process to pay attention, understand, appreciate and interpret to get information by the speaker through spoken language. Listening comprehension includes the multiple processes involved in understanding and making sense of spoken language. The learners comprehend the messages being listened in the listening activity. Difficulties are condition where students can not listen very well, many factors influence this condition. The aim of this research is to find out students' difficulties in Listening Comprehension at SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan and the English teacher solution in overcoming the difficulties that experienced by students. This research performed in SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan at eighth grade. Researchers used qualitative research design. The data collected by listening test, questionnaire and interviews. Based on students test result, from listening test researchers found that 9 from 14 students in eighth grade experienced difficulties in answering listening comprehension test, and the data from questionnaire showed most of students found difficulties when listening comprehension, especially in comprehending unfamiliar words, and the speed of the speaker when talking. From the interview among researchers with English teacher at eighth grade at SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan, the English teacher has some solutions such as students should listen to English songs, watch cartoon movies like 'Finding Nemo' etc.

Keywords : *Difficulties, Listening, Comprehension, Solutions*

ABSTRAK

Menyimak adalah keterampilan dalam belajar bahasa Inggris, Menyimak membantu kita untuk memahami dan menguasai keterampilan bahasa dan membuat pelajar lebih mudah untuk berkomunikasi dalam bahasa itu. Menyimak adalah proses untuk memperhatikan, memahami, menghargai, dan menafsirkan untuk mendapatkan informasi oleh pembicara melalui bahasa lisan. Menyimak mencakup berbagai proses yang terlibat dalam memahami dan memahami bahasa lisan. Pelajar memahami pesan yang didengarkan dalam kegiatan Menyimak. Kesulitan adalah suatu kondisi dimana siswa tidak dapat mendengarkan dengan baik. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui kesulitan siswa dalam Pemahaman Menyimak di SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan dan solusi guru bahasa Inggris dalam mengatasi kesulitan yang dialami oleh siswa. Penelitian ini dilakukan di SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan pada kelas delapan. Peneliti menggunakan desain penelitian kualitatif. data dikumpulkan dengan tes menyimak, kuesioner dan wawancara. Berdasarkan hasil tes siswa, dari tes menyimak peneliti menemukan bahwa 9 dari 14 siswa di kelas delapan mengalami kesulitan dalam menjawab tes menyimak, dan data dari kuesioner menunjukkan sebagian besar siswa menemukan kesulitan dalam Pemahaman Menyimak, terutama dalam memahami kosa kata asing, dan kecepatan pembicara ketika berbicara. Dari wawancara antara peneliti dengan guru bahasa Inggris di kelas delapan di SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan, solusi guru bahasa Inggris adalah: siswa harus mendengarkan lagu bahasa Inggris, menonton film kartun seperti 'Finding Nemo' dan film-film yang lain.

Kata kunci: *Kesulitan, Menyimak, Pemahaman, Solusi*

INTRODUCTION

One of the four main language skills in learning English is Listening. It plays an important role in learning the language and helps the students to enhance their knowledge because the students learn many things through listening. Listening is usually called as the most difficult skill in English skill, that's why the teacher has to understand the students' difficulties in order to solve the problem. Listening also can't separate from the other aspects of English skills, especially speaking skill. Moreover, listening has been applied to English lessons for students, and listening appears in examination at school. That's why listening is important in mastering English language.

Listening skill is important in learning since it enables the students to get insight, the information, and also obtain the fluency in communicating with English language to others. One of the effective listening is by keeping practicing listening skill within and outside the school or at the environment, students have many opportunities. But some students feel not confident to do it, most of them shy to start. Listening helps students to understand, assess and interpret what they heard. If students have good ability, it can improve their interaction and increasing cooperation. When listening, people must focus so that they can comprehend all of the contents. Listening is a planned way to listen and respond to others and pay attention to the speaker. In school, teachers usually teach listening comprehension through playing audio, most of teachers just use conversation from students' English book, but some of them used western songs, to prevent bored situations in the classroom, or by playing fun videos that still relate with their listening topic.

The bad classroom situation also affects the students' concentration while listening, the teachers have a responsibility to prevent this case from happening. But in general, most of students' difficulties while listening were the speed of the speaker, pronunciation and difficult vocabulary. To know more about students' difficulties in listening comprehension, researchers chose SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan as the observation place. The students also can learn listening to master other language skills, such as speaking, reading, and writing also supports listening. Listening enables them to get new information which makes them easier to communicate in that language. In addition, listening can entertain the students, because it is not only applied for academic purposes, but also helps the students to refresh their mind. In another word, listening is very crucial in teaching and learning the language, most of students' perception of listening is difficult, because listening has to always practice, not just in classroom or school, to master listening or listening comprehension students must practice their abilities as often as possible. Even though listening becomes one of the subjects at school, but in fact many students especially junior high school have difficulties when learning listening that is why the researchers are interested to choose this research entitled "Students' Difficulties In Listening Comprehension at SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan."

Through this study the researchers hope that students especially in junior high school who have difficulties in listening comprehension get new knowledge about listening in order to add their abilities in overcoming the difficulties that

experienced by students when listening comprehension. The advantage of this research is because this research will be very beneficial, for students and also teachers where In this research identify the students' difficulties and the cause, also provide some manners to overcome the learning difficulties that experienced by students in junior high school this research help to improve the abilities of students in listening comprehension Because most of the students have some difficulties in learn listening comprehension.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Definition of Listening

Listening occurs in a variety of other contexts. In learning at school, work meetings, parent-child relationships, romantic relationships, or the realm of relationships, lack of intention to listen to can be a trigger for major conflicts in the future. Listening is the ability to listen in English skill. In general there must be listeners and speakers in listening. Listening involves identify the what the speakers say and processing them into words and sentences, which belong understanding pronunciation from the speaker ,vocabulary and grammar. Listening is a process to verbal symbols attentively, understanding, appreciating, and interpreting to obtain information, understand content , and understand the meaning of communication by the speaker through spoken language. Listening also is the process hearing something with thoughtful attention. Listening is the active process of receiving and responding to spoken (sometimes unspoken) messages. Listening is the act of hearing attentively. Jafari and Hashim (2015) emphasized that listening is a channel for comprehensible input and more than 50 percent of the time learners spend in learning a foreign language is devoted to listening.

Saricoban (1999) stated that listening as the receptive ability which is used to get the productive ability. It is reasonable because the listeners understand the meaning of what they listened, and then they practice to create the language. The integrating language skills build an active teaching and learning English in the classroom. Therefore, they can develop their language skills in the real communication. Nation and Newton (2009) say, "In the view of language learning, listening is the way of learning the language. It gives the learners information from which to build up the knowledge necessary for using the language. When this knowledge is built up, the learners can begin to speak." It is clear that listening is a chance to find out how to get the knowledge of using a language in order to practice the language in real situation.

From the two opinions above it can be concluded that listening is one of the skills in English. Listening is a process of listening the material delivered by the speaker so that students / people can get information conveyed by the speaker and can practice how to communicate well. Therefore, the students will be able to speak up or use the language if they have listening as the way to learn the language. In this case, listening is not a passive skill, but it is an active skill in getting the language.

Definition of Listening Comprehension

Listening comprehension includes the multiple processes involved in understanding and making sense of spoken language. The learner comprehends the messenger being listened in the listening activity. The effective listening requires the ability to organize and remember that presented. In the listening comprehension, knowledge used by listeners to understand the meaning from speaker.

There are the knowledge includes knowledge of language about what is said, about the situation in which speech occurs and background knowledge of language listening comprehension must selecting or adoptig material should be relevant. Student should understand the meaning of short of narrative, descriptive, and news item in daily life. Then, students respond to the meaning of monologue using by speakers accurately , fluently and comprehensibly.

These include recognizing speech sounds, understanding the meaning of individual words, understanding the syntax of sentences on which they were presented. Listening comprehension can also involve the utterances are spoken.

Listening comprehension is regarded as a complex, interactive process in which listeners are involved in a dynamic construction of meaning. Listeners understand the oral input from sound discrimination, prior knowledge of vocabulary, grammatical, structures, stress and intonation, as well as other use linguistic , Para linguistic, or even non linguistic clues in context as utterance (Rost,2002). Listening comprehension is Language Understanding that discusses how to pronounce spoken language. Some things that are included are related to good pronunciation, overcoming speech sounds, understanding the meaning of individual words, and / or understanding with sentences delivered by the speaker.

The Definition of Difficulties

Difficulties are a condition where students can not listen well. This factor is very influential in listening. If students cannot hear well, automatically the material presented is also not understood by students who are listening in English, due to interference, both originating from students' internal factors are limited by intelligence factors cause students to be unable develop according to their capacity. And in this research, the researchers examine the difficulties of listening that experienced by students in English lesson.

According to Underwood (1990: 15) there are some difficulties inherent in this skill in listening experienced by English learners, namely (1) The listener cannot control the speed of speech of the person delivering the message, and they feel the message conveyed is gone before they can understand fill in the message. When they can understand one message, at that moment another message disappears. (2) The listener does not have the opportunity to ask the speaker to repeat or clarifying the message conveyed, for example when listening to the radio, watching TV, so the listener must be able to understand it as it is. (3) Lack of vocabulary owned by the listener, making the listener unable to understand the contents of the text he hears can even make them bored and frustrated (4) Failure of the listener to recognize and understand the 'signs' sent by the speaker which

causes the listener to misunderstand the message received (5) Mistakes in interpreting the message received, so that the contents of the message delivered are received or interpreted differently by the listener (6) Not being able concentrate due to various things, for example unattractive topics, physical fatigue, noisy environment and so on. (7) Concerns about the different ways and materials taught by the teacher and material heard through audio devices or native speakers of English.

Many solutions were made by the English teacher at the time listening, so that students easily understand the material delivered by the speaker. But the result is still no significant change in the listening learning process. So many factors that students find it difficult when learning listening in English. For example, Material that give by speaker to the students more quick and forget the material they have listen, do not recognize the meaning of words that the speaker give or the students were heard because of the limitations of their English vocabulary, The students do not understand the command which is explained verbally, the students were lazy in learning English or no motivation to learn English, The situation in the classroom also affects the level of students concentration in listening. if the class is too noisy then students will have difficulty in understanding and listening to the material delivered by the speaker.

Definition of Solution/Problem Solving

Solution/Problem Solving is a learning process where we try to improve ourselves from the practices that we do. Definition of solution is a way to solve problems without pressure. Solution is a thought process with the best goal to find out solve of the problem faced in order to achieve the desired goal, with this through the six stages of problem solving processes which include identifying, representing, planning solutions, realizing plans, evaluating plans and evaluating solutions. Before solving it, the first step you must take is to identify and determine the problem. After successfully identifying the problem, the next step that can be done is to begin to describe the problem in more detail and specifics. Don't forget, when outlining a problem, you still have to see and do it directly, so that you can learn more and analyze the problem so that you can prioritize the effort that will be done. When solving a problem must analyze the source of the problem. Thus the problem will be more easily solved. then Information on the results of the problem analysis then becomes a guide and support for developing solutions to resolve the problem.

Problem solving according to Robert W. Balley (1989: 116) is a complex and high-level activity of a person's mental processes. Problem solving is defined as a combination of brilliant ideas to form a new combination of ideas, he emphasizes reasoning as the basis for combining ideas and directing to problem solving.

Plus that, someone who has a lot of experience for a particular field always has a response that is ready in a situation to solve a problem. Davidoff (1988) also explains that the process of solving human problems is usually defined as a

business that is quite hard which involves a goal and its obstacles. Someone who faces a goal will face problems and thus he becomes stimulated to achieve that goal and strive . in such a way that the problem can be overcome. This means that every person who has a goal in achieving everything he wants will encounter a problem or obstacle facing him. However, with the determination and effort he has, a person will continue to try to fight the problems and obstacles until finally they can achieve the desired goal.

From both opinions above we can conclude that the solution is the process of recognizing the problem until finding a solution to solve the problem with the best solution in accordance with the problem being experienced.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this study the method that used is qualitative research with case studies approach. The researchers chosen qualitative method because this research aims to provide insight into cases of anxiety at Smp Swasta Kenanga Medan especially the difficulties that performed by students when they learn listening comprehension. According to Fraenkel and Wallen, case studies are qualitative studies approaches that study one individual, group, or example are important to formulate interpretations for specific cases or to provide useful generalization. Therefore, the case study approach allows the writer to do it study certain students in an effort to understand cases of difficulties experienced by students in learning to listen.

The Place and Study

This research was located on Smp Swasta Kenanga at jln bunga kenanga number 23 Padang bulan Medan.the research is planning on Monday 11th November 2019.

The Instrument of Collecting Data

The instrument that used by researchers in this study were:

Test

In collecting data the researcher giving listening test to the students, the purpose of this test was to know the difficulties of students by checking their answers. Listening test that use in this research using speaker, In listening test section the researchers will play song two times, and then the students will write down (fill in blanks) the words that they hear in listening section. the test consist of 10 and the assessment consist of five parts, namely : excellent, very good, good, adequate and poor.

Questionnaire

Questionnaire of this study is instrument that consist of series questions (or the other types of prompts). The questionnaire used to identify the difficulties faced by students while listening. The purpose of the questionnaire is to gathering information from respondents.

Questionnaire consists of a series of statements which are related to a particular target with asked to the respondents in indicate the extend to which they are

agree or disagree, the kind of questionnaire in this research is yes or no questions. The questionnaire were responded by students in about 15 minutes.

Interview

According to achmadi and narbuo (1991 : 83) interview is the process of direct question answer, where there are two or more people face to face to listen some direct informations or explanations. Researchers need to do interview with english teacher to get some informations about student's difficulties in listening comprehension at Smp Swasta Medan researchers ask English teacher that consist of

some questions about listening comprehension to know the difficulties that experience by the students in listening comprehension.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

The data that found from this research were :

- ✓ The students' answer the test fill in the blanks that given by the researchers. researchers play song entitled "Beautiful in White" twice. through the answers that collected by researchers, 9 from 14 students at eight grade in SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan. Found Difficulties in answer the test.
- ✓ The Students' answer from the questionnaire about students' difficulties in listening comprehension that given by researchers in 15 minutes. From the data that collected by researchers, 12 students found difficulties in understanding unfamiliar vocabulary and when the speaker talking to fast in listening comprehension, 11 students found difficulties to understand listening text when the topic is unfamiliar, 8 students found difficulties to interpret meaning of listening that too long and word reduced form in English, 7 students feel difficult to interfere listening comprehension when conversation is too long and 4 students found difficulties to understand the intonation that used by speaker.
- ✓ The teachers' answer from the interview given by researchers. the data that collected by researchers from interviewing English teacher were : students found difficulties in listening comprehension when the speaker is native speaker, then when the topic of listening not explain at the previous, and they have obstacle in unfamiliar word.

The solution that given by English teacher were, students must often listening to western song, watching cartoon movie such as, "Finding Nemo" because the pronunciation is easy to understand. The data were derived from the test, questionnaire and interview then analyzed by the research. From the Analysis of the research, the researchers find out that the Students Difficulties in Listening Comprehension at SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan were:

1. Understanding unfamiliar vocabulary
2. Understanding every word spoken while listening
3. When the conversation is too long

4. Interpret the meaning of listening that too long
5. Unfamiliar topic
6. When the speaker is talking too fast
7. Understand word reduced form in English
8. The circumstance at class situation/environment affect their concentration
9. Understand intonation that use by speaker

The reasons that students experienced in difficulties of Listening Comprehension were :

1. Because they aren't accustomed listening to conversation and song by native speaker.
2. Because they don't know the topic of listening if the teacher not explain at the previous.
3. Because they're not develop their vocabularies.

The techniques that should be used in avoiding the students' difficulties in Listening Comprehension is by using some media, Such as English Song, Watching cartoon Movie such as "Finding Movie" because the pronunciation is easy to understand.

Discussion

Listening Test

In this research, the data of this study was taken from 14 students of eight grade in SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan by did listening test, giving questionnaire for students and interview for english teacher.

The Students' Listening Test Score

Table 1

No	Students' Initial Names	Correct	Incorrect	Score	Category
1	RJTP	9	1	90	Excellent
2	ANS	8	2	80	Good
3	GP	8	2	80	Good
4	FS	6	4	60	Adequate
5	SYN	6	4	60	Adequate
6	RHS	5	5	50	Poor
7	TS	5	5	50	Poor
8	MK	5	5	50	Poor

9	BS	5	5	50	Poor
10	DS	4	6	40	Poor
11	RYS	4	6	40	Poor
12	PP	4	6	40	Poor
13	JRS	3	7	30	Poor
14	GW	3	7	30	Poor

The Explanation of Category

Table 2

Score	Number of students'	Category	Difficulties
90-100	1	Excellent	Not Difficult
80-89	2	Very Good	
70-79	0	Good	
60-69	2	Adequate	
0-59	9	Poor	Difficult

The table above showed that the highest score of the students was 90 and the lowest was 30. There was a student who got 90, 2 students got 80, 2 students got 60, four students got 50, 3 students got 40, and 2 students got 30. From listening test, there were 5 students found no difficulties and 9 students that found difficulties in listening comprehension.

Questionnaire

The Data Analysis of Questionnaire

Table 3

No	Questions	Answer (Yes)	Answer (No)	Precentage
1	Do you feel that learn listening is difficult?	7	7	50%
2	Do you have difficult to understanding unfamiliar vocabulary in listening comprehension?	12	2	85,71%
3	Do you feel difficult to understanding every word spoken while listening?	4	10	28,57%

4	When the conversation is too long, does interfere your listening comprehension?	5	9	35,71%
5	Do you find any difficulties to interpret meaning of listening that too long?	8	6	57,14%
6	Do you feel difficult to understand listening text when the topic is unfamiliar?	11	3	78,57%
7	Do you feel difficult of listeng when the speaker talking too fast?	12	2	85,71%
8	Do feel any difficulties to understand word reduced form in english?	8	6	57,14%
9	Are the class situation/enviroment influenced or affect your concentration when learn listening?	7	7	50%
10	Do you feel difficult to understand intonation that use by speaker?	4	10	28,57%

The table above showed students' difficulties in listening comprehension at eight grade students of SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan as following :

1. There were 12 (85,71%) students who found difficulties to understanding unfamiliar vocabullary and when the speaker talking to fast in listening comprehension.
2. There were 11 (78,57%) students who found difficulties to understand listening text when the topic is unfamiliar.
3. There were 8 (57,14%) students who found difficulties to interpret meaning of listening that too long and understand word reduced form in english.
4. There were 7 (50%) found that learn listening is difficult and the class situation/environment influenced affected their concentration when learn listening.
5. There were 5 (35,71%) students that found difficulties to interfere listenin g comprehension
6. When conversation is too long.
7. There were 4 (28,57%) students who feel difficult to understand intonation that use by speaker.

The calculated of students percentage score

The percentage of students were difficult in Listening comprehension :

$$P = \frac{R}{T} \times 100\%$$

Where :

P = The percentage of the students who response yes

R = The number of students

T = The total number of students who response questionnaire.

Interview

From the interview among reasearchers and english teacher Mrs. Sri Maria Tarigan S.S at eight grade in Smp Swasta Kenanga, researchers get information that when students in eight grade learn listening the speaker isn't native speaker, and usually the topic already explained by teacher before, so when they listening directly to native speaker and to the new topic of listening even a song they will difficult to understand. Its also difficult when they don't know the vocabullary (unfamiliar word) and the reduced form like : i will become i'll. I have become i've, I had become i'd. and others. Moreover, they seldom listening to song, or the other kind of listening except from their english book, that's why they low in vocabullary. according to english teacher the best solution to overcome the students' difficulties of listening comprehension were : they must often listen western song, watching cartoon movie such as "finding nemo " because the pronunciation is easy to understand.

CONCLUSION

Based on the result, 9 from 14 students at eighth grade in SMP Swasta Kenanga Medan found difficulties when having listening comprehension through the test. There were 12 students who found out difficulties to understand unfamiliar vocabularies and the speed of the speaker when talking in listening comprehension, There were 11 students who found difficulties to understand listening text when the topic is unfamiliar, there were 8 students who found difficulties to interpret meaning of listening that too long and understood word reduced form in English, there were 7 students found that learning listening is difficult and the class situation/environment influenced affected their concentration when learning listening, and there were 5 students found difficulties to interfere listening comprehension, when conversation is too long and there were 4 students who felt difficult to understand intonation that used by the speaker. The reasons of students such as they aren't accustomed listening to conversation and song by native speaker, they don't know the topic of listening if the teacher does not explain at the previous and they do not develop their vocabularies kindly from the interview among researchers and English teacher. the solutions are using some media, Such as English Song, Watching cartoon Movie such as "Finding Nemo" because the pronunciation is easy to understand.

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