

1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains a brief explanation of the introduction. It consists of background, formulation of problem, objective, use, scope, and definition of terms.

1.1. Background

One of the basic language skills is listening comprehension that is included into receptive skill. Rost (2002) as cited in Kurnia and Herlina (2012), listening is getting or catching what the speaker says. The first goal in listening is comprehension, which also means what the listeners want to achieve. Gou and Wills (2005) as cited in Kurnia and Herlina (2012) argue that according to second language acquisition theory, an input skill is very much essential for students' language development, particularly in understanding the linguistic information they hear.

Foreign language learner usually finds more difficulties in listening to English native speakers than to non-English native speakers, and it causes misunderstanding in listening to speech through false identification of words, which is the same source of confusion in comprehending English spoken by native speaker.

The students should master listening skills to interact in spoken communication and continue to the next skills to develop their ability in English. Huebener (1969) says that in acquiring a foreign language, listening of course comes first. That is why listening has become the first point in language learning. In other words, everyone who understands the meaning of a sentence and starts to talk has to hear the sound, words, and speech pattern first like children learn their mother tongue.

In reality, it is difficult to achieve listening skills because the students are often discouraged, and lose interest when they learn English. Additionally, there are some obstacles that make the students uninterested in listening English. First, they cannot differentiate the words which have similar sounds. Second, they have limited vocabularies. Third, they cannot recognize sentence grammatically. Fourth, they cannot detect the key words, such as identifying the topics and ideas. Those problems happened because of the lack of practice or using uninteresting technique in presenting the material in the classroom by the teacher. In teaching learning activity, the teacher needs to choose the learning technique that is suitable to the situation of the classroom.

Refer to the prior explanation; this research is aimed to investigate the effectiveness of song in improving micro skills of listening. The researcher assumes that song tends to be fun for the students, and they will not easily get bored if they learn listening through song. Here is the details of the research title “Teaching Micro Skills of Listening Through Song”.

1.2. Formulation of problem

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the problem as follows:

1. What aspects of micro skills of listening can increase significantly?
2. How is the students' perception to the use of songs to teach micro skills of listening?

1.3. Objective

In accordance with the formulation of the problem mentioned above, the objective of the research is to find out:

1. What aspects of micro skills of listening which are improved by songs.
2. Students' perception toward teaching micro skill of listening through songs.

1.4. Use

By writing this research, the researcher hopes that this study would have some benefits as follows:

1. Theoretically

The result of this research is expected to be able to support the previous theory of listening.

2. Practically

This research is expected to obtain the finding which can be used as an input for English teacher to increase their student's listening achievement.

1.5. Scope

This study was conducted at the second year students of junior high school of SMP Muhammadiyah 5 Bandar Lampung. The researcher investigated students' listening skill by implementing song in increasing students' micro skills of listening. The researcher chose junior high school with an assumption that they were able to receive the material that was given by the researcher because they already had proper knowledge about English. The limited material was song because the researcher wished the students to focus on the materials. The researcher wants to investigate the micro-skills of listening.

1.6. Definition of terms

There are some terms used by the researcher and the researcher gives the definition:

Listening

Listening refers to the process of getting and comprehending general idea of utterance or conversation that the students heard.

Micro skills of listening

Micro skills of listening refer to the skill which the listener has to interpret such as discrimination among sounds, recognition of vocabularies, detecting keywords, and recognition of grammatical structure.

Song

Song is short poem or verses set to music and intend to be sung.