

The Influence of English Song to Improve Listening Skill

Siti Aulia Ulfah¹, Maria Ulfah¹, Aulia Azmi¹, Faisal Rahman¹

¹*Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Sari Mulia, Indonesia*

Sitiauliaulfah9201@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

This is a conceptional article which the writer proposes a concept of the influence of English song to improve listening skill. In English language teaching, there are various kinds of available media that can be used to improve listening skill. Hypothetically, one of the best media to learn listening skill is by using song. Because by listening the songs, the students can learn listening skill anywhere and anytime in an easy and fun way. In fact, English song are the easiest and simplest media for learning English which most students are often used. They will learn listening skill by listening to the songs many times. Thus, memories are also formed through repetition. In short, using songs will be an effective media for students to master listening skill.

INTRODUCTION

English is very important in this era of globalization. English, which is the main capital for communicating in international relations, is now a common need that must be met. One way to master English in order to prepare a generation of people who are ready to be competent in the global market is by learning English through various channels, both formal and non-formal education, such as elementary school, courses, or extracurricular activities. Through learning English at school, students' intellectual and social abilities can improve, such as being able to communicate in English orally and in writing in various needs and conditions, especially to prepare students from an early age to be able to compete with the global community today and in the future comes through language as a medium of communication.

The most important thing to be able to understand a language is to listen to it properly and correctly. Listening skills cannot be obtained only through theory, lecture methods or reading and writing, but the need for repeated and continuous practice carried out by students themselves who are assisted by teachers.

The listening aspect is the most difficult aspect for students to learn of the components of English language skill. This is because when students listen to words or sentences in English conversations, they are influenced by the way native speakers speak who have different accents, such as accents, British accents, American accents, and Australian accents. And another thing that affects is the lack of vocabulary in English. Vocabulary and accent are related to each other, because sometimes the vocabulary will be different depending on the accent used by native speakers. Some students have difficulties in learning listening, such as difficulty with sounds, having to understand every word, not understanding native speakers' voices quickly and naturally, need to hear everything clearly more than once, find it hard to follow, and feel tired[1]. Regarding these issues, it cannot be denied that students' learning motivation plays an important role in learning how to listen. Another topic would be motivation, because listening is difficult, teachers need to think carefully about the success of interesting activities and content[2]. Students tended to become bored listening to repetitive narrations and dialogue when trying to make sense of new words and phrases in

context [3]. On the other hand, if you listen to the song on repeat, you can feel the monotony thanks to the rhythm and melody.

Songs are a medium that can improve listening skills. Listening to English songs is one of the ways he also improves hearing. Listening to English songs improves your listening skills [4]. When listen to English songs, ears become accustomed to song unconsciously, so in listening classes, those who are accustomed to singing will find it easier to understand what the narrator is saying. When learning English, especially listening, there are many avenues to help improve a student's listening skills. B. Videos, Films and Songs [5]. When a student hears and memorizes a class-related song, the lyrics will be memorized in their long-term memory. Listening is also a creative skill because to understand the sounds we hear we take the raw material of words, the arrangement of words, and the rise and fall of the voice, and from that material we create meaning as a listener, which depends on the linguistic information, the situational context, and the speaker's intentions.

This article focuses on using English songs to improve listening skills in learning English. Listening is very important because it is one of the skills that need to be mastered when learning English. If people have mastered listening skills, they will learn English fluently. Through this study, people who are going to learn and want to improve their listening skills can choose the right way of learning and the way of learning that is not difficult. So that learners can learn languages easily, especially in listening skills. English songs can be a good way to learn listening, because people often enjoy listening to songs and songs that are an easy medium to find.

LISTENING SKILL

Listening is one of important skill in English teaching and learning process. Listening skills is skill to receive, understand, and convey messages conveyed by the other person or the voice that is heard. Listening comprehension process consists of three steps: receiving, attending and understanding in sequence. The understanding step may be followed by responding and remembering as listeners may respond immediately or remember the message to respond at a later time [6]. For people learning English, Listening is a skill that must be learned because in verbal communication without listening to the speaker's speech and understanding it someone cannot communicate with each other. By listening someone can imitate things and increase our accuracy when speaking [7]. Active listening is about learning to listen effectively, which is to pay attention not only to the content of the speech, but also to how it is pronounced. So, one of the necessary skills to learn in the process of teaching English is listening skill

In learning listening skill students often find difficulties. "Even if someone knows all the grammar and lexis of a language, it does not necessarily mean that they will be able to understand a single word when it is spoken" problems according to them are [8]:

1. People speak too fast to follow; can't tell where words start and stop; and pick out those parts that are most important for them to understand.
2. People pronounce words they just don't recognize;
3. Can't work out details of what is being said; don't know what attitudes people are expressing; and get even a general sense of the message;

Thus, there are several problems that are often faced by students including: too hard to follow people who speak too fast, people speak words they are not familiar with, do not understand in detail what other people are talking about.

According to the above understanding, it can be concluded that the definition of Listening skill is the ability of receiving, understanding and conveying the message conveyed through the other person. Besides that, in learning listening skills there are several difficulties including: it's far too hard to follow native speakers who talk too fast, lack of vocabulary, do not understand in detail what other people are talking about.

MEDIA FOR TEACHING ENGLISH

Media is generally used by the teacher in the learning process. This can be a link or key to transferring the teacher's concept of a particular material to students' understanding. A medium (plural, media) is a means communication and source information. Derived from the Latin word meaning "between", the term refers to anything that carries information between a source and a receiver[9]. Meanwhile, learning media can be interpreted as a tool of hardware or software used in the delivery of materials by teachers to students in the learning process [10]. In learning, media is expected to make a more effective and efficient learning process in accordance with the purpose of learning. So learning media is very useful for teaching and learning processes.

There are several functions and benefits of using media in the teaching-learning process, there are: can generate interest and stimulate learning activities, can help improve understanding, make teaching methods more varied, help efficiency in learning. The media used in the teaching-learning process has some functions and benefits [11]. They were; 1.) media as a teaching tool that also affects the climate, conditions, and learning environment that is organized and created by teachers, 2.) The use of media in teaching and learning can awaken new desires and interests, motivational, and stimulate learning activities, 3.) It can help to improve understanding, presenting data and information with interesting and reliable way, 4.) The use of media will make the teaching method more varied, not only verbal communication through the narrative of words by the teacher, 5.) It helps to foster a sense that can help the development of language skills, and 6.) Provide experiences that are not easily obtained in other ways, and help the efficiency and diversity in learning. However, the use of media must be appropriate in the process of teaching English. In order, to improve students' skill in English, the media must be able to maintain students' interest and enjoyment.

There are five different types of media (1) Non-projected visual media, such as caricatures, illustrations, charts, graphs, diagrams, maps, and so on; (2) Projected visual media, such as: Slide (film frame), Overhead Projector (OHP), Opaque Projector, Silm strip (composite film); (3) Audio media, such as: radio, optical media, tapes, telephones, and so on; (4) Audio-visual media, such as: television and voice slides; (5) Multimedia, such as: interactive media, hypermedia, virtual reality, and multimedia kits[12]. That is, the use of media types depends on the student or learner.

From the explanation above it can be concluded that the media is a learning tool that is everything that can be used for the teaching and learning process. In addition, media is very useful for students in conveying lesson material. Media also has several types that can be chosen by the student or the learner.

SONG AS MEDIA FOR TEACHING ENGLISH

One of media that can be used in teaching listening skills is by using songs. The song is a series of words that are sung with a certain rhythm and tone. In general, both children and adults like music or songs [13]. On the other hand, like story books, music also contains many genres and themes. Song is a medium for expressing feelings such as sadness, happiness, anger, compassion, and so on. Songs can also bring a positive atmosphere in the classroom during learning. Music can enhance a child's skills in academics, feeling-

expression, and social connection to family, community, and culture [14]. Thus, song is easier to use as teaching media because it is universal for every ages.

Learning English through songs has several advantages. Musical hearing and ability are essential to language acquisition. There are several advantages of using songs, such as; songs can provide the knowledge, new vocabulary and the grammar through the lyrics, songs are interesting to learn language, songs are great for pronunciation practice especially sound linking, intonation, stress and reduction, can be practiced on drilled by listening songs, songs contain repetitions and repetitions enhance learning, songs can improve the language skills, etc [15]. Song is a great way to improve listening skill and it will make a huge difference in the teaching process. For the teacher, using song in the classroom can also be a nice break. On the other hand, song can be taught to any number of students and even those teachers with the most limited resources can use them effectively. Therefore, using song for improve listening skill is beneficial for teaching English.

Song used as a teaching media in listening skill has several characteristics. The teacher should consider the suitability of the song for the students by considering the subject, gender and age, good qualities such as speakers, and the sound quality of the song should be clear and loud. Therefore, using songs in the classroom also need to relax students' minds and bodies and give them more listening pleasure. The song that was created for language learning in the classroom usually have the following traits [16];

- a) contains word, phrase, and sentences with a particular theme,
- b) the elements of language is repeated,
- c) generally, the song have context so easy to memorized,
- d) the song sung by the body movements (action songs),
- e) the song can be sung by learners outside of the classroom, and
- f) have happy pitched and fast

Teaching listening skill through songs is not only fun, but it also helps improve students' ability to acquire listening skills. It can be concluded that the teacher's role is very important to following the characteristics of song. Teachers should design materials that are used effectively and according to teaching and learning objectives.

The use of songs as a media in teaching listening skill has been studied by some researchers. English songs bring energy to the classroom and boost students' confidence [17]. Moreover, using songs in the classroom are of the opinion that songs are advantageous tools and a teacher should take advantage of it during linguistic practice [18]. Because of that, teachers can use song to teach listening skills. This allows students to relax while studying, making it easier to learn and understand. On the other hand, the use of English songs has improved the students' listening. English song also helped students in motivating them during teaching and learning process [19]. It can be concluded that all of the studies have found that English songs could improve students' listening skills. The previous research shows that music can be used as a tool to improve listening comprehension or listening skill in English. The results from previous research studies also show an improvement in students' listening ability when music is used as a learning media.

Therefore, teaching English by using song is one of effective media to improve listening skill. The advantages of song are making students fun, but in the other way also helps improve students' ability. The teacher's role is very important to following the characteristics of song. Teachers should design materials that are used effectively and according to teaching and learning objectives. So, song is a great way to improve listening skill and it will make a huge difference in the teaching process.

CONCLUSION

Listening is one of the most important skills in the English teaching and learning process. In addition, listening ability is the ability to receive, understand, and convey the message that the other party wants to convey. Unfortunately, students often struggle with listening learning. For this reason, the use of educational media is necessary to improve listening skills. One of the media that can be used is the use of songs. Using songs in the classroom relaxes the mind and body of the students and increases the listening pleasure. On the other hand, the use of singing as a medium for teaching listening comprehension has been studied by some researchers. All studies have found that English songs may improve a student's listening skills. From this we can conclude that the use of singing can be used as a teaching tool and can improve students' listening skills.

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