

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the research background, scope of the research, statement of the problem, objectives of the research, and significance of the research.

A. Background

English is one of the most widely used international languages in the world for communication. English needs to be learned so that speakers can communicate effectively and advance their knowledge of technology, science, and international relations. It is also important in education because it is the language of science. As a second language, English is considered difficult to learn because they are not used to it and because they have also been surrounded by their mother tongue since childhood. In improving English mastery, there are four skills that must be mastered by students, namely listening, reading, speaking, and writing

Listening is one of the skills that have an important role for students in learning a foreign language. Listening is the first skill that needs to be taught to students because it is the most basic of the four skills in terms of improving language skills. Listening must have an important place in learning English. Before students can answer the teacher in the teaching and learning process, they must first listen to understand the information and concepts.

Listening is a process to identify, understand what the speaker is saying, and listeners can repeat what sounds they hear. That is, in this case listening skills

are needed because from listening we can find out the meaning of what the speaker is saying and provide feedback so that listening requires more attention and concentration to understand the sound heard.

When learning English, learners often face various problems or difficulties, especially to improve their listening skills. According to Bingol et al (2014) the reasons why students face difficulties in listening aspects include, English is a foreign language that students rarely use in everyday life, the use of listening materials also mostly uses different accents, different idioms, , and vocabulary. Another important factor is that students are accustomed to listening to non-native speakers in class and are forced to understand the listening test given in their native language. In addition, the length and speed of listening material and lack of concentration affect the way students understand and retrieve information.

To overcome this, students need to be exposed to the media to help improve their listening skills. One way to practice listening skills using learning media is to use podcasts, which are listening applications that are currently popular among students. The use of podcasts in various fields is growing, including one in the field of education, so that the use of podcasts in learning is expected to attract students' attention to learning, especially listening learning. Podcasting is regarded as one of the unique forms of audio and video materials that provide language learners with numerous possibilities to improve their language skills. Thus, students' listening skills can be utilized as much as possible.

For this reason, this issue is considered interesting and also important for further research. In order to overcome this, students need to be exposed to the media to help improve their listening skills. One way to practice listening skills using learning media is to use podcasts, which are audio applications that are currently popular among students. The use of podcasts in various fields is growing, including one in the field of education, so the use of podcasts in learning is expected to help improve students' listening skills.

Although many studies explain that listening has an important role in learning to be taught, there are still many students who are poor at listening. One of the previous studies is by Galina Kavaliauskien and Lilija Anusien from Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania, who have tried to analyze the challenges faced by students in listening to various authentic English podcasts and analyzed students' self-evaluation data on various techniques to improve listening skills, and the results prove that listening to podcasts is an innovative way to practice listening skills.

A large number of students use digital technology to connect and participate in online chat, blogging, and computer games. They use MP3 players, text messages, cell phones, and internet browsing to fulfill their social needs, have fun, and discover lots of knowledge. Podcasts are one of the new media that is expected to improve and develop students' listening skills. Podcasting has advantages for students. The real benefit of podcasts for students is that they provide up-to-date content and original sound, which is great for listening practice. Podcasts are easy to find and download. Students have access to podcasts

at any time and from any location. Podcasts can help students practice their pronunciation.

To reflect or consider the listening problems and previous studies above, the researcher is determined to test the use of podcasts on students' listening skills. Based on the above background, the researcher is interested in conducting research on students' listening skills through English learning podcasts in the fifth semester of English Department students at Khairun University. The purpose of this study to determine the effect of using English podcasts in improving students' listening skills.

B. Scope of Research

This research focuses on students' listening skills using podcasts . This to reveal student listening competences for students at fifth semester.

C. Problem Statement

Based on this background, the researcher formulates the following research question, how does the English podcast affect students' listening skills?

D. Research Purposes

The purpose of this study is to analyze students' listening skills using media podcast.

E. Research Significance

Basically, there are two kinds of research significance, as follows: (1) Theoretical significance and (2) Practical significance. The significant ones are as follows :

1. Theoretical significance

It can enrich and expand the literature and theory of listening skill using podcast.

2. Practically significance

This research is expected to provide several benefits :

- a. For other researchers

This research can be an option to be used as a reference in conducting other studies related to this research.

- b. For English teachers

This research can provide additional knowledge and experience on how to improve students' listening skills.

- c. For students.

This can be a positive effort to improve their listening skills and also enables them to use their gadgets to study.