

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the research, problem of the research, objective of the research, operational definition of terms, significance of the research, and scope of the research.

1.1 Background of the Research

English is the International language spoken in various countries. In this increasingly modern era, English has become a foreign language to study. In Indonesia, English has been studied a lot from kindergarten to university. At the junior high school level, they begin to learn the four components of language skills. Language skills have several components there are listening, reading, writing, and speaking. In gaining language skills starting from a sequential relationship and usually based on listening and will be followed by other skills.

Listening is one of the factors in communicative competence, it is a very important skill because it is the most widely used in daily life. Learning listening will help us to improve other skills considerably.

Teaching listening needs more attention in order to develop students' language. In some cases of the language classroom, listening was considered to be the most difficult language skill for students because it needs more attention and concentration to comprehend the material that includes understanding dialogue and monologue text. It also in studying listening we don't just listen but try to find out its meaning and learn how to pronounce a word that we listen to. This makes

students have difficulty in understanding listening comprehension. Even students who are majoring in English and have just carried out listening classes, there are still difficulties in understanding the message conveyed by the speaker. According to Lynch (1988, p. 4) we cannot practice listening in the same way as we can rehearse speaking or at least the part of speaking that has to do with pronunciation because we cannot usually predict what we will have to listen to. For some Indonesian students, it is not easy to understand listening especially using a foreign language. They seem to have difficulty understanding and interpreting the words or sentences they have heard. This happens because most of them do not concentrate on listening and try to interpret the words or sentences they have heard before understanding them. Some of them struggle because of the different vocabulary between their pronunciation and writing. There are also vocabulary words that have the same pronunciation, making them confused to understand.

Lynch (1988, p. 4), also said there were problems experienced by students. Did he try actively to construct an interpretation of what was said? we are able only to reduce what the listeners did with the message and what they found difficult by examining their response - whether spoken, written, or non-verbal (Lynch., 1988, p. 4). This explains that not only students' intelligence is needed in understanding listening comprehension, but their skills and enthusiasm in taking listening classes also affect them in understanding listening comprehension.

Previous research discussing about this issue was written by Ummah (2012) with the title "Problematika Dalam Belajar Listening Comprehension Yang

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Pamekasan". In this study, the researchers took from the point of view of the lecturer as an educator who teaches Listening material. The results of this study reveal the methods used by the lecturer when teaching so as to provide good and fun listening learning. The study also sheds light on factors that hinder learning to listen.

The difference between previous research and this research is that researchers focus more on students as the object of their research. Researchers will get data from the students' point of view that explains their difficulties in understanding listening. This study has similarities with previous studies, namely that both explain the factors that cause difficulty in understanding listening and have the same goal, namely to find out the difficulties faced in learning to listen.

A previous study that also discussed this problem was a study written by Andika and Sari (2021) entitled "The Analysis of Learning Difficulties Toward English Education Study Program Students at University of Ma'arif Nahdlatul Ulama Kebumen in the Academic Year 2019/2020". The result of this study is the problems that caused students difficulties in learning and doing listening exercises. The difference between previous research and this research is that there is no explanation about the methods that can be used to make it easier to learn listening. The similarities with this research are the use of methods and the same as using data analysis by Miles & Huberman.

Understanding Listening is not an easy thing. Not all English students can master this skill. In listening lessons, many students can listen but cannot understand the meaning of what they have heard. Each student must have a

different level of difficulty according to the factors and difficulties they each feel. In this case, the researcher is interested in analyzing student problems in understanding listening comprehension. This research covers what makes students difficult and how they overcome these difficulties. The researcher wants to do research entitled "Students' difficulty in understanding Listening Comprehension" (Case study of third-semester students of the English study program, University of Muhammadiyah Jember).

1.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the research background and rationale, the formulation of the research problem is:

1. What are the difficulties experienced by students of the English program in understanding listening comprehension?
2. What factors cause difficulty in understanding listening comprehension?

1.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the research question, the objective of the research is:

1. To describe the students' difficulty in understanding listening comprehension.
2. To describe what factors caused students' difficulty in understanding listening comprehension.

1.4 Operational Definitions of the Terms

An operational definition is a guideline for understanding the terms used in the research title. In this study, there are 2 definitions, namely:

1. Difficulty understanding

Difficulty understanding is a learning disorder that causes difficulty in learning. Difficulty understanding will affect how students understand the material that has been presented. This can be experienced by every student but with different levels of difficulty.

2. Listening Comprehension

Listening comprehension is one of the four aspects of language. Listening skills are very important for every student to have and need to be improved to make it easier to learn the language.

1.5 Significance of the Research

1. The English Teacher

The research results are expected to be useful information as an effort to overcome students' difficulties in understanding listening comprehension.

2. The Researchers

To increase knowledge about the difficulties faced by students in the learning process, especially listening comprehension.

1.6 Scope of the Research

This study focused on the difficulties experienced by students in understanding listening comprehension by third semester students of English education program in University of Muhammadiyah Jember.