

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter consist of background of the research, problem of the research, objective of the research, operational definition of the term, significance of the research, scope of the research.

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Listening skills are a critical aspect in acquiring holistic language skills, involving understanding words, intonation and sentence structure in the context of daily conversation. As the most widely used language in the world, English is a mandatory subject in Indonesia taught from elementary school to university level. Listening is one of the four skills that must be mastered in learning English. However, when I did my internship at high school in Jember, listening was a skill that was rarely taught, even though listening is also an important aspect for students at university level.

With the sophistication of technology in this era, there are many media that can support listening learning to be more effective, one of which is podcasts. A podcast is an audio recording that can be listened to by the general public via the internet. Unlike radio, which must be broadcast live at a specific frequency, a podcast can be implemented flexibly or whenever you want. You can also listen to podcasts through various electronic media available.

Nowadays, you can also use podcasts through third-party applications, commonly known as Anchor. Because of its on-demand nature, podcasts are highly favored by internet users today compared to listening to radio broadcasts, which have limitations in terms of access, frequency, and time. The podcast serves as a Web 2.0 tool that can be incorporated into educational settings. It aids students in enhancing their listening abilities, fostering critical thinking, and inspiring them to engage deeply in listening, cultivating an appreciation for this skill.

Users can choose which topics they like, this can help ESL in practicing listening skills because they can hear what they like. The application of podcasts is extensive, and their content can vary. While podcasts typically feature human voices, the inclusion of text is not precluded and is contingent on the podcast owner's preferences. For instance, if a teacher owns the podcast, it may incorporate listening exercises, completion of missing words, sentences, and questions related to the audio recording. This approach allows for the delivery of lectures in both oral and written formats, offering significant advantages to students, particularly in foreign language instruction (Wall, 2019). Podcasts are an efficient media for practicing listening skills for ESL learners.

Podcasts help students understand the material, become more proficient, and develop their listening comprehension skills in language classes. Regrettably, there hasn't been much research on podcast best practices and their efficacy while educating high school students in Indonesian contexts until this study (Abdulrahman et al., 2018).

Based on previous research, SMA Muhammadiyah 3 Jember still has shortcomings in listening learning. This was stated by the English teacher at SMA

Muhammadiyah 3 Jember. Location was also a factor in conducting this research, because Jember itself is a very different district from previous research conducted in the capital city of Jakarta. Students in this study mostly spoke two or three languages, namely Indonesian, Javanese and Madurese. Another thing that differentiates this research from previous ones is the class level. This study took samples from eleventh grade while in previous research it was from tenth grade.

This research was driven by the need to provide effective and relevant learning strategies in improving ESL students' listening skills. With a better understanding of the impact of podcast use, this learning approach can be better integrated into the curriculum, providing an engaging and motivating alternative for students to develop their listening skills. In addition, this research can contribute to our understanding of the effectiveness of digital media, such as podcasts, as learning aids in the context of English listening skills. The aim of this research is to investigate the impact of utilizing English podcasts on the listening comprehension skills of ESL (English as a Second Language) students.

## **1.2 Problem of the Research**

According to the background above, the problem of the research formulated as follow: is there any significant effect of podcast to ESL students' listening comprehension skills?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

The objective of the research is to investigate the effect of English podcast on ESL students listening comprehension skills.

## **1.4 Operational Definition of the Terms**

### **a. Listening Comprehension**

The writers obtain title “The effect of English Podcast on ESL Students’ Listening Comprehension”. Listening comprehension is an activity include recognizing speech sound and understanding the meaning of the words. The core refers to here is the ideas in English podcast.

### **b. English podcast**

The term "English podcast" in this study refers to online audio recordings created especially with the goal of teaching and enhancing English language proficiency. It focus on podcasts from the website [www.podcastsinenglish.com](http://www.podcastsinenglish.com), which provides a range of episodes aimed at various proficiency levels of English learners. These podcasts are designed to improve listening comprehension by exposing students to real-world English usage, which includes vocabulary, genuine speech patterns, and a range of accents. The content is typically accompanied by transcripts and exercises to aid in comprehension and retention.

## **1.5 Significance of the Research**

The result of this research is expected to be used theoretically and practically:

### **1. Theoretically**

- a. The result of this research is expected to be used by teachers to develop students’ listening comprehension skills

- b. The result of this research is expected to be used as a reference for other study on the similar topic
- c. The result of this research hoped will provide valuable insights for educators, curriculum developers, and practitioners of learning English as a second language to improve student-centered learning approaches.

2. Practically

This study can give writer a new knowledge that listening skill can be improve through English podcast

**1.6 Scope of the Research**

The scope of this research is the effect of English podcast on ESL students' listening comprehension at SMA Muhammadiyah 3 Jember grade XI academic year 2023/2024.