

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the hypothesis of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, and the definition of key terms.

A. The Background of the Study

English is a global language that most of countries know and also use it become their national language. In our country, we know English as our foreign language. Many people in Indonesia are familiar with English. It also become a lesson in the school. We can find English lesson from the Elementary School until the University.

Talking about learning English, there are four skills that must be mastered by the students. Those are Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Those four skills must be mastered by the students. But, there are some perceptions said that listening is more difficult than other skills. According to many researchers, listening is one of the important skills that should be mastered because it helps students to improve other English skills.¹ The other fact is that, Listening plays significant roles in EFL classroom and SLA research.² This is because Listening is the tool of communications.

¹ Veronica Mustika Heni Permatasari, "Improving Students' Listening Skills Through Podcasts at SMP BOPKI 1 YOGYAKARTA GRADE VIII Class A in the Academic Year of 2012/ 2013". Published Thesis. Yogyakarta: Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, 2013, 1.

² Hamouda Arafat, "An Investigation of Listening Comprehension Problems Encountered by Saudi Students in the EL Listening Classroom". *International Journal of Academic Research in Progressive Education and Development*. 2(2013), 114.

Here, the researcher will focus in Listening skill. As we know that listening is difficult, as human mind tends to distract easily. A person who controls his mind and listens attentively acquires various other skills. But the real fact, we find the students are getting difficult in learning listening. It caused by many factors, those are: they feel strange with the new vocabularies, the native speakers speak too fast, the students feel bored with the listening material, etc.

So that the resesarcher thinks, there should be a different tool to teach listening with an innovative and interesting media. We have to adapt with the technology that nowadays the use of technologies has increased over the years and students now have an expectation of technology use.³ Here the researcher uses PODCAST media to measure the students' interest in learning listening. The term 'podcast' was first coined in 2004, and it is defined as an internet audio publishing. The audio recording is designed to be downloaded and listened to on a portable MP3 player of any type, or on a personal computer. Different from other audios, podcasts are delivered online automatically via website. Those offers language teachers and students a wide range of possibilities of extra listening practices both inside and outside of the classroom.⁴

Using podcasts is a good way to develop students' listening skill. Podcasts are created by former MTV VJ Adam Curry. Those are a term that was devised as a way to describe the technology used to push audio content

³ Catherine Sutton-Brady, et.al. "The value of Using Short-Format Podcasts to Enhance Learning and Teaching". *Research in Learning Technology*. 17 (2009), 219.

⁴ Ibid., 2.

from websites down to consumers of that content, who typically listen to it on their iPod or other audio players that support MP3 at their convenience. It is available on the Website broadly into two types: “radio podcasts” and “independent podcasts.” Radio podcasts are an existing radio program produced by BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) and RTHK (Radio Television Hong Kong). Independent podcasts are a Web-based podcast produced by individuals and organizations. Those are the type of podcasts which has huge potential for ELT because this can fulfill the needs of different learners. Those can be created by learners themselves, and of free and user-friendly sound recording and editing software such as Audacity, and to MP3 players and increasingly the iPod becoming an electronic gadget owned by every teenager. Students are expected to be more interested in having listening class by using podcast. They are also expected to have more opportunities to practice listening, which in turn will make them attend the listening class.⁵ To sum up, Podcasting is regarded as an important tool which allows students to use technologies based on entertainment systems such as portable audioplayers (e.g. an iPod) for educational experiences.⁶

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background above, it is necessary to do a study on the process of the listening class at SMKN 2 Kediri. The problems of this study is: Do the students taught using PODCAST Media have better achievements

⁵ Ibid., 3.

⁶ Selma Abdeddaim, “The Effectiveness of Using Podcasts For Developing Learners’ Listening Skills”. Published Thesis. Biskra: Biskra University, 2013. 17.

than those who are not taught by using PODCAST media at the 1st grade students of SMKN 2 Kediri?

C. The Objective of the Study

Based on the problem stated above, the general purpose of this study is to know whether teaching listening using PODCAST Media is effective or not to the 1st grade students of SMKN 2 Kediri.

D. The Significance of the Study

The purpose of this study is expected to contribute the development of English teaching, particularly in teaching listening skill. Hope that the teacher can make a better teaching strategy, so that students can enjoy learning listening and also get the better mark then.

From this research, the researcher also hope that the result of this study will be useful for the teacher as a feedback to improve the elements as follows:

1. The Students

Students can enjoy learning listening. So that finally they can easily understand what does the speaker said. They will get new vocabularies with the native pronunciation. They will be more confident in learning listening. And the last, they will get the best score in listening. So there wouldn't be a problem in learning listening anymore.

2. The English Teachers

This research helps the teacher to get the students' interest in learning listening. The teachers can make an effective and interesting

learning process through PODCAST media. It helps the teachers to teach easily and make the students happy to learn English.

3. The Researcher

The Researcher can know whether this study is good to be applied in the teaching listening or not. And if it works, so that the researcher will get a valuable experience and hope that this research will help the next researcher to consider this research become his input in doing his research better.

4. The School

The expectation of this research is that, it may be a good input for SMKN 2 Kediri because it can give a new innovation in learning listening. And it can be promoted that the school has a good teaching in English for students' quality.

E. The Hypothesis of the Study

A hypothesis is a tentative explanation for certain behaviors, phenomena of events that have occurred or will occur.⁷ From the problem and objective of the study, the researcher wants to know and describe the effect of PODCAST media in students' listening ability. Therefore, the researcher makes hypothesis about the result of the research:

H_0 : There is no significant difference between the impact of POCASST media and tape recorder in teaching listening

⁷ Gay L.R, *Educational Research: Competencies for Analysis and Application*, (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1987), 66.

H₁: There is significant difference between the impact of POCAST media and tape recorder in teaching listening

F. The Scope and Limitation of the Study

The subject of this study is limited for the 1st grade students of SMKN 2 Kediri. It will help them to have a motivation in learning listening, so that they will mastered listening ability and they can pass the examination when they are in the 3rd grade well.

In this study, the researcher just limit the object in teaching listening by using PODCAST media. According to the researcher, PODCAST is one of the innovative and interesting media to be learned. It can be sure that the students will be enjoy following this teaching learning process. From the PODCAST, the students can learn about stories, culture, pronounciations, spoken style from the native speakers, and also new vocabularies.

G. The Definition of key terms

To keep the readers' understanding, it is necessary to give clear clarification about the term used in the study as follows:

1. Effectiveness

Effectiveness is producing the result that is wanted or intended (coming into use).⁸ In other words, Effectiveness is the capability of producing a desired result.

⁸*Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary* (London: Oxford Univesity Press, 2003), 138.

2. PODCAST media

A podcast is an episodic series of digital media files which a user can set up. So that new episodes are automatically downloaded via web syndication to the user's own local computer or portable media player.

3. Teaching Listening

Listening is the ability to identify and understand what others are saying.⁹ Teaching listening here is related to how is the way that is due by the teachers to make their students enjoy and easily to reach what they teach.

⁹ Arif Saricoban, "The teaching of Listening". <http://itslj.org/>. Accessed on March, 18th 2017.