

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

As an international language, English plays an important role in communicating, learning and maintaining international relations in knowledge, information, technology, science, culture and art. Due to its importance, English has been adopted as a subject in school. The four skills that need to be taught to learn a language effectively are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Listening, speaking, reading and writing are important aspects of learning. Listening is the most important skill in everyday communication, but it has received little attention when learning a foreign language or a second language. By listening, students interpret what they hear and what they already know before using their language understanding to understand the message. Conceptually, it has to do with the connection between the knowledge they are now receiving and the experiences they are having. The goal of listening skills, according to Asemota (2015), is to involve students in the learning process. Through listening, students may become more aware of language and how it is delivered. Hasan, M & Hoon, (2013) stated that listening is a learning process that enables the listener to respond to the speaker. These explanations show that in order to effectively teach listening, the proper media and media must be used, so that the teacher has to find the right method and the right media.

According to Awalia Putri (2021), there were some problems found when students were learning listening. The first problem is limited students' comprehension in understanding the materials they are listening to. Students become unfamiliar with the listening itself and also unfamiliar with listening to the English native speaker. And the last problem is they were unable to correctly write what they heard. The reason why the problem exists is because the students lack motivation and enthusiasm in studying listening.

To overcome these problems, teachers need to create creative listening teaching methods that encourage student participation in the learning process. While teaching listening, there are many various

methods. Use of podcasts is one of them. Podcasting is an innovative wearable that includes video progress and advanced audio transmission that can be downloaded and played on mobile phones. According to Yeh (2013), podcasts are acknowledged as an effective media type that enhance language learning. Podcasts can help students learn. Podcasts can be utilized to simply give interested students more language experience. It is one of the most authentic sources to teach listening skills. Over the past few years, podcasting has quickly gained the attention of educators. It has also been one of the most popular topics in education (Zhao & Jiao, 2012). This is consistent with the findings of Hasan & Hoon's (2012) study, which revealed that podcasts encourage students to learn English and enhance their language abilities, particularly in listening. This potential advantage of podcast was discovered in a study conducted in Saudi Arabia with 46 EFL students (Qasim & Fadda, 2013). The results demonstrated that podcasts were improving students' motivation as well as their listening comprehension, creating a fun environment for learning, and enhancing their automaticity skills, mainly listening. The term "podcast" is a combination of two technologies: "iPod" and "Broadcast". Podcasts are audio recordings of discussions on a particular topic, such as novels, business, politics, health, language, and many more. Podcasts are widely used by the general public to listen to news and knowledge, and to share knowledge that can be repeated. Podcasts are some of the most popular content because you can listen to them anywhere and anytime.

Unlike radio, where you have to listen to everything broadcast on the radio, podcasts also allow you to select and repeat the topics you need and skip the parts you don't need. In fact, podcasts don't require a radio station, so they can now be used as a low-cost investment vehicle. Listeners can also download themes that suit their tastes. The podcast allows listeners to select and listen to preferred programs that they need. Using podcasts is a great way to improve students' listening skills. Students are expected to be more interested in listening to lessons through podcasts.

Based on the explanation above, the Researcher is interested in

using the Podcast media as a learning medium in the listening class so that learning listening feels easier and more interesting, learning experiences more fun and not boring at all. The reason why researcher use podcast as learning media is because podcast can be alternative media in learning. The first reason is podcast has many choices of topics such as health, politics, language, economy, and many more. Second, podcast do not serve ads. Unlike radio which always inserts advertisements, podcasts do not have advertisements, so listening to the content will feel more enjoyable, comfortable and focused. And the last reason is podcasts are flexible and can be listened to anywhere and anytime.

The researcher hopes that when students learn listening with a podcast media, students can learn with fun and not boring. So the researcher believes that the podcast as media will make students more interested and enthusiastic in listening class.

B. Limitation of the Study

The scope of this discussion is students' perception of the use of digital media. The limitation of this research was on the discussion of the students' perception of learning listening skill using podcast media, especially in summarizing the content of podcast.

C. Research Question

Based on the description of statement of problem, the researcher has focused the research on one problem, and the statements of the problem was: How is students' perception of using podcast as media for enhancing listening skill?

D. Purpose of the Study

Based on the question that has been exposed above, it can be seen that the purpose of the research is to describe students' perception of using podcast as media for enhancing listening skill.

E. Significance of the Study

This research was expected to provide benefits to students and teachers. For teacher, by applying podcast media, a teacher will make it easier for his/her students to learn listening. For students, by being given podcast media, the students feel easy to learn listening. Learning listening becomes more fun, interesting and not boring.