

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter will present the introduction of the study. This chapter will cover the background, research problem, research objective, scope, and significance of the study.

### **1.1. Background**

Listening is one of the language skills that focuses on the listening comprehension of its learner. As Brown (1991) states in language acquisition, listening skill is important as listening is used for learning a foreign language in spoken form. Kim & Pilcher (2016) also states that it is required for language learners to have good listening ability as good listening ability is required to comprehend language and information in spoken form. This means that it is important for a language learner to have a good mastery in listening as listening is required in the language acquisition process, especially for communication and acquiring information in spoken form.

Even though listening is one of the important aspects of the language acquisition process, many English language classrooms in EFL countries including Indonesia overlook listening as a language skill. According to Nunan (1997), listening is considered a “Cinderella skill” in the foreign language learning classroom. This means that the portion of listening is often have fewer portion than the other language skills such as writing and speaking. In Indonesia, listening ability tends to be neglected by English lecturers as they usually have a greater emphasis on speaking (Nadhira & Warni, 2021). The teacher gives listening fewer portions in the classroom as they thought it already combined with speaking. Another reason listening is often overlooked in foreign language learning classrooms stated by Rahman *et al.*, (2018) that says one of the main reasons why listening skill is often overlooked in the language learning classroom is English language teacher finds it difficult to find reliable and appropriate listening material for the English language classroom.

Because listening is often overlooked in the EFL learning classroom, many problems related to listening in Language teaching arise. Because of the lack of exposure to English as a foreign language in verbal form, the learners are unable to

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grasp information in spoken form which could lead to the learners misinterpreting the speakers' meanings (Yıldırım & Yıldırım, 2016). This makes the learners encounter difficulties when trying to obtain information from foreign speakers or when they try to communicate with other foreign language speakers outside the classroom. Another problem related to listening that could happen because of the learners' lack of ability in listening is that the learners cannot understand the words that the speaker says because they are not used to the speaker's speed of speech and their ascent (Ramadhianti & Somba, 2021) which makes the learners cannot comprehend the information from the speaker.

To overcome the problems that could happen because of the lack of exposure to listening ability in the English learning classroom, podcast can be used as listening material in the English learning classroom. Podcast is an innovation that consists of video series or digital audio files that can be downloaded and played on a portable device (Abdulrahman *et al.*, 2018). As podcast is available in many languages including English, podcast could be used as authentic material for language learning, especially in improving listening ability.

There are many benefits of using podcast as listening material in English learning classrooms. According to Agustina (2018), using podcast as listening material in English learning classrooms could help the students to comprehend information in spoken form much easier as podcast will talk about one specific topic which makes the students easily understand the talks as they know the topic that the speakers is talk about. Widodo & Gunawan (2019), add that as a listening material in English learning classrooms, podcast can also improve the student's imagination which is important in comprehending information in spoken form as imagination is used to connect the information that they heard to give them the idea of what the speaker is saying.

Several studies have attempted to use podcast as listening material in English learning classrooms to improve the student's listening skills and comprehension. The research that was conducted by Prasetyo *et al.*, (2014), investigate whether podcasts can improve students' listening comprehension of descriptive text. The research found that the usage of podcast as listening material could improve the listening comprehension of English language learners. Another research was

conducted by Shiri (2015), which explored the student's perspective of using podcast as listening material in English learning classrooms. The research found that using podcast as listening material in English learning classrooms could make the students less easily bored and motivate them to listen to the material.

Considering the issue of Listening comprehension and the benefit of podcast as listening material in English learning classrooms, this study aims to improve the EFL students listening comprehension by deploying podcast as the listening material.

## **1.2. Research Problem**

Based on what is written above, the question of this research is:

- Do podcasts affect students' comprehension in listening skill in EFL classrooms in Indonesia?
- What is Students' opinion towards podcast as listening material in EFL classrooms in Indonesia?

## **1.3. Research Objective**

The objectives of this research are:

- To investigate whether podcast as listening material will affect students' comprehension in listening skill in EFL classroom in Indonesia.
- To investigate Students' opinion towards podcast as listening material in EFL classrooms in Indonesia

## **1.4. Research Scope**

This research is planned to investigate whether podcast as listening material will affect students' comprehension in listening skill in EFL classroom in Indonesia. Additionally, this research will also investigate the students' attitude towards podcast as listening material in EFL classroom in Indonesia. Because of the limitation of place that can be reached by the researcher, the participants of this research will be limited to EFL learners in Indonesia. Therefore, the result of this research may not be effective as a reference for research for English native speakers.

## **1.5. Significance of the Study**

The researcher wills this study could give useful information and insight to lecturers and future research.

- For lecturers, the result of this study can be used as a comparison when planning to use podcast as a learning material for EFL learners.
- For future research, the result of this study can be used as a reference when doing research in the same field.

## **1.6. Clarification of Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding on the terms used in this study, the researcher gives the definition of the following key terms:

### **1.6.1. Listening**

Listening is one of the language skills that is important in the language acquisition process. According to Hogan *et al.*, (2014), listening is a process where an individual tries to receive and analyse verbal messages from other parties during the communication and information acquisition process. Because of this, language learners need to have a good listening ability as it is required to effectively understand what other people are saying.

### **1.6.2. Listening Comprehension**

According to Kim & Pilcher (2016), listening comprehension is the ability in listening that enables the individual to comprehend language in the spoken form. Listening comprehension is very important as it makes the individual able to grasp the information in the spoken form correctly and able to connect the information that they just listened to using their logic in the listening process. Good listening comprehension is important in the communicative situation as to avoid misinterpretation of meaning.

### **1.6.3. Podcast**

According to Marcu (2019), podcast is a digital audio file that can be accessed on the internet by the user using a computer or mobile device. Podcast is considered to be the successor of radio as both the purpose of podcast and radio is to broadcast messages to many people through audio-based media.

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#### **1.6.4. EFL Learners**

According to Gebhard (2006), English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Learners refer to the learners of the English language who do not live in English-speaking countries. Because the learners do not live in the English-speaking country, they are not exposed to English as much as the learners that live in the English-speaking country. This makes the strategies and approaches that are used in teaching EFL learners different from those who live in English-speaking countries.