

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This section discusses the background of the study research problem, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, and also key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

Listening skill is a receptive ability that naturally develops which then provides all of the input and reception of language acquisition (Renukadevi, 2014). For example, when a baby receives a sound, he processes it and perceives what he has heard. The baby will start adapting to the rhythm, intonation, and stress of the language he hears (Renukadevi, 2014). Listening skills have a major role in terms of language learning. Listening skills play the most important part in helping language learners acquire the aspects that will help them to comprehend the delivered information such as pronunciation, word stress, vocabulary, and syntax that are used to convey the messages with the voice tones, pitch, and accent that only possible to happen through direct listening (Renukadevi, 2014). When all of the inputs are understood the learners are able to get a precise understanding of the materials.

Rezaei and Hashim (2013) stated that listening is an important skill but due to the practical difficulties of providing spoken text, it is neglected in many

language-learning situations. Thus, it requires a form of effort to provide learning materials for the listening class and individual learning sources for teachers and students. Hence, it is vital to prepare learning media that provides spoken text to improve listening skills.

In improving listening skills, learning media has a big role as well. These days technology has become a big aspect that helps people in any field of life, including education. In today's education, technology appears as a tool for improving creativity and intellectual capacity (Chun et al., 2016). People can easily access material from social media through the internet. This modern media can raise students' motivation to improve their listening skills. Improving English skills through entertainment has also been popular these days. Many people learn how to speak English by watching TV series, and movies, listening to music, and podcasts. People tend to absorb more information and inputs when they learn through the media that they genuinely enjoy. Therefore, they do not even realize that they already learn a lot because they enjoy the process and do not feel the burden of learning.

Abdous et al. (2009) note that foreign language teachers and students perceived various benefits when using technology in language teaching and learning. The developments of technology devote various sources to listening skill improvement. In the language learning process, it is highly recommended to provide the learning process with an excellent tool. One of the media that is indicated as an effective tool for English language development is podcasts (Hasan & Hoon, 2013).

According to Ahn et al (2016), podcasts are audio files that are distributed via the internet to share information nonsynchronous. Nowadays podcasts have become more popular. People can get new information about topics that they are interested in. The higher education podcasts are often used to be provided as a review of past lectures, explain difficult ideas, assessments, reading recommendations, and feedback on assessment work (Saripudin et al., 2023). There are a variety of topics and materials provided that support the various interests of the learners. In the teaching media sector, it provides educational podcasts, information, music, humor, audiobooks, political and sports, and game channels as well (Basenko & Baskakova, 2021).

Basenko & Baskakova (2021) stated that podcasts are an efficient tool for teaching foreign languages in the classroom and independently utilizing new digital technology. Therefore, podcasts can help the teacher provide teaching media in the classroom that is able to facilitate the language teaching process. Listening comprehension is defined as the ability to understand spoken language at the speech level, including conversations, stories, and informational oral text (Kim & Pilcher, 2016) so, students can maximize their learning process outside the classroom using podcasts as sources.

A related research that is concerned about podcasts conducted by Rahmasari et al. (2021) in “*Students’ Perception of Utilizing Podcast in Learning Speaking*” found that students were interested in podcasts as a learning medium due to the variety of genres and topics. The podcast also improves students' ability to

pronounce words correctly which boosts their confidence and motivation (Rahmasari et al., 2021). It means that podcasts help improve students' confidence and motivation by the reasons for pronunciation development.

Another related research has conducted reliable research. Bamanger & Alhassan (2015) conducted research titled “*Exploring Podcasting in English as a Foreign Language Learners’ Writing Performance*”. The result of the study showed that participants indicated a positive attitude towards the implementation of podcasts in the lecture, revealing the effectiveness of podcasts in learning grammar and vocabulary (Bamanger & Alhassan, 2015).

Previous studies have successfully investigated the use of podcasts in improving students’ speaking skills by improving vocabulary and the effectiveness of podcasts in learning vocabulary and grammar. Hence, this study focused on students’ side of perceptions of the use of podcasts in improving listening skills. Furthermore, this study also intended to investigate how students perceived their experience while using podcasts as a language learning media.

1.2 Research problem

Based on the background of the study above, this research *formulate the question* following research problem: “What is the student’s perception of using podcasts to develop listening skills?”

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the research problem, this research is purposed to find out students' perception of using podcasts as a medium in developing their listening skills.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to be a reference for teachers, students, and other researchers. For teachers, this study is expected to be an inspiration in developing innovation in the teaching-learning process that is up-to-date and friendly to use by students. In addition, for students, the result of this study is expected to give further insight and wider information that various types of media can provide appropriate sources to support the learning process. Moreover, to other researchers, this study is expected to be able to use an appropriate resource as the basis to conduct similar research.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

The scope of this study is the student's perception of developing and improving listening skills using podcasts as the learning media also the problems and obstacles that usually appear during the learning process.

The limitation of this study is using podcasts to support students in improving listening comprehension of the college students in the final semester

majoring in the English Language Education Department at the University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.6 Definitions of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding and clarify the definition of the key terms, the terminology is put below:

1. Listening

Listening is a language skill that combines hearing what another person says and the psychological involvement with the person who is talking. (Tyagi, 2013).

2. Learning Media

Learning media is defined as a variety of technologies, symbol systems, and procedures that provide supportive aspects in a learning activity (Hikmawan et al., 2019).

3. Podcast

A podcast is an audio type of file that goes through an editing and screening process that is spread evenly through the internet to deliver messages or information. (Ahn et al., 2016)

4. Perception

Perception is the study of how human sensors process information into emotional and intuitive experiences (Elyssa Twedt, 2012). Perception is the way someone interprets a piece of information or condition to their feeling and builds them into an opinion.

