

THE USE OF ENGLISH SONG TO IMPROVE STUDENTS' PRONUNCIATION AND LISTENING SKILLS

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Abstract

Listening and pronunciation are one of the most important things to learn English language. If we want to make the conversation using English language, certainly we need listening skill and the correct pronunciation. To learn those skills, many strategies used to improve their skills one of them is utilizing English song. Learning strategy using English song is the common strategy used by EFL students since many of them like to listen the music. To know what their strategy using English song, this research will investigate the EFL students' perception. This research aims to find out the utilization strategies using English song used by EFL students in order to improve their pronunciation and listening skills. This study adopted quantitative research design. The data has been collected from the students of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia (UTI) majoring English Education study program batch 2018. The interview was conducted through questionnaire. The result of this study showed that many students agree that utilizing English song can improve their listening skill and their pronunciation.

Key words: English song, Pronunciation, Listening skill, EFL, Learning strategy

INTRODUCTION

English has become the international language to communicate with others in around the world. Since English is the most important language communication and become international language, many people want to learn English. Because there are many discourses of English that exist in our society, so the people start to be aware that English is needed to be globalized (Mandasari, n.d.; Simamora & Oktaviani, 2020). According to Utami et al. (2020) the ability of international communication fluently is needed. Therefore, non-native speaker of English should learn English due to communicate with foreigners. To support the students to learn English for communication with foreigners, English has been learnt as foreign language in every level of education (Mandasari, 2017b; Dian Puspita, 2021). Everyone has many learning strategies to learn English one of them is utilizing English song to learn English. Music has become popular nowadays in around the world with many genres (Kuswoyo, 2013; Yunara & Kardiansyah, 2017). Besides it is for entertainment, music can also be utilized to learn. From young to old people like to listening music whether it's just for fun or utilize it to learn. English song can be utilized to learn various things, one of them is to learn the pronunciation and listening skill (Febriantini et al., 2021; Mandasari, 2017a).

Pronunciation is the part of English that is used to communicate with others because there are differences between sounds and symbols of pronunciation (Ambarwati & Mandasari, 2020; Oktaviani & Desiarti, 2019; Pratiwi et al., 2020). Besides we should learn vocabulary and grammar of English, pronunciation is also becoming an important one to learn English because pronunciation can be utilized to ease our understanding of spoken English. However, there are many ways to learn pronunciation and the easy way to learn it is learning by English song. Ahluwalia, (2020); Ayu (2019) stated that sometimes language classes can be boring, so the solution of that is to make them lively by listening to music. We can read the lyrics while listening to the song or we can sing the song, so we will know how the pronunciation of those words without checking one by one on the dictionary (Rahmania & Mandasari, 2021; S Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020). Hence, utilizing music to learn pronunciation is beneficial.

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are four skills in studying English that we should master, they are reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Listening skill is one of the significant skills that must be comprehended in learning English. According to (Kuswoyo & Wahyudin, 2017; Rido & Sari, 2018; Sari et al., 2013) Listening skill plays a significant role in the expansion of other language arts skills in a language classroom. The students generally will listen to the words by repeating several times at first learning English until they are able to recognize those words. Agustin & Ayu (2021); Pranoto & Suprayogi (2020); Yulianti & Sulistyawati, n.d.) stated that Listening skill is one of the most difficult abilities to master, especially in EFL context because the students are not taught by native speakers of English and that is why they are unwilling to learn listening in the classroom. Therefore, the teacher should give the solution to teach listening in another way in order to make the students are not bored in the class (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021; Suprayogi Suprayogi, 2021). One of the ways to teach and learn listening is using English songs. When listening to music, especially English songs, unconsciously our ears will listen comprehensively and when in listening class, they can easily comprehend the meaning of the text that the speaker is talking about (Damayanti & Listyani, 2020; Kardiansyah & Qodriani, 2018; D Puspita, 2004).

The previous study about using English songs to learn pronunciation and listening skills. It has the result of the article that utilizing songs in L2 class had a positive effect and there are no significant differences between the female and male learners in listening and

pronunciation. The data collection technique used t-test which is Pre-test and Post-test. The research is different with this article because in this research used qualitative research which means the author of this research will figure out the students' perception and will analyze the result using qualitative (Oktaviani & Desiarti, 2019; Sinaga & Oktaviani, 2020; Tsauri, 2021). Moreover, in this research also using questionnaire as the data collection technique to explore the EFL students' perception of utilizing english song as their learning strategy to improve the pronunciation and listening skill.

Based on the phenomena of the utilizing english song to improve pronunciation and listening skill above, in this research, the author wants to find out the EFL students' perception toward their learning strategy utilizing english song to learn the pronunciation and listening skill. Hence, the research questions of this research was 1) What are the students' perception of using english song to improve thier pronunciation and listening skill? 2) can english song help the EFL students to improve their pronunciation and listening skill?.

METHOD

This research used the qualitative research, which means the analysis of the result will use descriptive analysis. This study research was carried out on May – June 2021. The population of this study research is taking from English education major from Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia batch 2018. However, the researcher will select the data as the sample on this research and got 27 subjects as the sample. The characteristic of the subjects is avarage age among 20-24 years old consist of male and female. The research instrumen used in this research was interview through questionnaire. Fauzi et al.(2020); Octavia et al. (2020); Sari & Wahyudin (2019) stated that questionnaire is the platforms to gain the information by giving non-verbal question to answer by participants.

The questionnaire of this study research asked about the subjects' perception toward utilizing english song to improve the pronunciation and listening skill. The questionnaire was distributed on WhatsApp group of English education major batch 2018. The type of questionnaire is multiple choice consist of "Yes" and "No" choices. The obtained data in this research will be analyzed by descriptive analysis including the table of percentage and means score. Those data will be compared based on the subjets' answer that was obtained from questionnaire.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

No	Questions	N	Yes	No
1	I like to listening music	27	100%	-
2	I listen to music everyday	27	74%	26%
3	I can learn english through english song	27	92%	8%
4	I learn english thourgh my favorite english song	27	88%	12%
5	My english gets better when learning through english song	27	81%	19%
6	English song can improve my pronunciation	27	92%	8%
7	I sing english song to practice my pronunciation	27	96%	4%
8	English song makes easier to learn the pronunciation	27	81%	19%
9	I prefer learn pronunciation through english song than check it one by one in dictionary	27	74%	26%
10	When listening english song, I read the lyrics to know what pronunciation of those words	27	88%	12%
11	I listen to english song to improve my listening skill	27	92%	8%
12	My listening skill gets better because of listening to music	27	85%	15%
13	I listen english song carefully to know what the lyrics of that song	27	92%	8%
14	I turn the volume up when listening music to learn listening skill	27	77%	23%
15	I guess the lyrics of english song first, then I check my answer by reading the lyrics	27	74%	26%
16	I prefer learn listening skill thourgh music than any other platforms	27	81%	19%
	Total Mean		85%	15%

The results of the study shows that the answer “YES” got the higher mean score than “NO” asnwer. It means that most of the students utilize english song to improve pronunciations and listening skill. Based on the table of finding above, it can be seen the highest score is 100% from the question or statement “*I like to Listening Music*”. It indicates that all of the subjects or students like to listening music. Listening to music is probably one of their hobby. However, listening music can entertain us when we feel bored. According to Agustin & Ayu (2021); Hashim et al. (2016); Rahmania & Mandasari (2021) listening music makes us feel happy, increase our mood, enjoy dance or movement, and to help us to relax and focus. The second highest score gained from the question or statement “*I sing english song to practice my pronunciation*”. It shows that utilizing english song to practice pronunciation can be done by singing english song. By listening music, unconsciously we

learn the pronunciation because we listen the words singing by the singer. Then, when we sing that song of course our tongue will be improved to pronounce the words available in the song.

Based on the table of finding, the lowest score from “YES” answer is 74% which there are three questions or statements have the same lowest score. Eventhough the questions got the lowest score, it is still higher than the answer “NO”. The first question or statement is “ *I listen to music everyday*”. It indicates that for those students that listening music everyday, it is probably listening to music is their hobby. But for those students that disagree with this statements, may be eventhough they like to listening music, it is not their hobby. So, the students do not listen to music everyday. Another possibility is because when the students are busy, they can not listen to the music, but there are also students when they are busy, they listen to the music in order to be relax when they are busy doing something. The next question or statement that has the same lowest score is “ *I prefer learn pronunciation through english song than check it one by one in dictionary*”. This question got the lowest score among other questions. It might be caused because some students learn pronunciation through dictionary instead of listening music. Another question is “ *I guess the lyrics of english song first, then I check my answer by reading the lyrics*”. From this question or statement, it indicates that some students do not use this strategy to improve the listening skill. The possibility of this case is because some students when utilizing english song to improve listening skill, not learn by using the lyrics they just listening the song carefully untill they know the words exist in the song.

The students’ perception toward utilizing english song to improve the pronunciation and listening skill shows that many students agree that utilizing english can improve thier pronunciation and listening skill. It can be seen from the findings that the answer “YES” got the higher score than the answer “NO”. It means that many students using english song to utilize it to learn english. However, listening to english song is helpful for students to increase their ability in english language. Utilizing english song is one of the strategy to improve the students’ skill in english beside learning from their teacher or lecturer. Thus, english song is benefical for students. Apriyanti & Ayu (2020); Tiono & Sylvia (2004) stated that music can indorse students with actual word communicative advantage. It means that from the lyrics of the song, it provides the communicative words that we can learn from it.

English song can help EFL students to improve their pronunciation and listening skill. As we can see from the finding, many students agree that their pronunciation and listening skills are improved when listening to English song. This thing has been known by seeing the question 6 “*English song can improve my pronunciation*” and question 12 “*My listening skill gets better because of listening to music*”. It indicates that listening English song can improve their English skill. Listening can improve listening skill because when we listen to English song, our ears will unconsciously be used to hearing, so when the students practice listening in listening class, they will be easier to gain the meaning of what speakers say (Aminatun & Oktaviani, 2019; Apriyanti & Ayu, 2020; Keith et al., 1974). Listening to English song can also improve the pronunciation because the singer of English song will say the correct pronunciation. However, in English, there are many same pronunciations in different words. For example dear-deer, sun-son, to-two-too, week-weak and so on. Therefore, we should be careful to listen to English song by seeing the context of what the singer says in order to find the meaning of those words (Muliyah & Aminatun, 2020; Wahyudin, 2018).

CONCLUSION

Utilizing English song to improve the pronunciation and listening skill has been agreed by many students. It can be seen from the finding by question number 6 and 12. All of the subjects in this research like to listen to music. Thus they can utilize it to improve their ability in English like pronunciation and listening skill. However, listening to English song is helpful for students to increase their ability in English language. Utilizing English song is one of the strategies to improve the students' skill in English beside learning from their teacher or lecturer. Thus, English song is beneficial for students. The possibility of this thing is because when we listen to English song, our ears will unconsciously be used to hearing. Listening to English song can also improve the pronunciation because the singer of English song will say the correct pronunciation (Ahdan et al., 2020; Ambarwati & Mandasari, 2020). Therefore learning pronunciation through English song is effective.

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