

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

Language is a very important means of communication in daily human life. Human being uses language both in written and spoken forms to express their idea. As stated by Ramelan (1992: 10), language is an arbitrary system of speech sounds which is used in interpersonal communication by an aggregation of human beings, and which rather exhaustively catalogs thing, process, and events in the human environments. English has become an international language. People of different countries speak English to communicate. English is a key, which opens the door to scientific and technological knowledge. The Indonesian government has chosen English as the first foreign language to be taught in the schools. English becomes one of compulsory subjects from Junior High School up to University. Therefore, the government provides a curriculum as the guidance of English teacher in teaching-learning process. In the English curriculum 2006, the learning activities involve listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The development of science and technology increasingly encourages renewal efforts in the use of technological results in the learning process. Teachers are required to be able to use the tools that have been provided and do not rule out the possibility that these tools are in accordance with the developments and demands of the times. At least the teacher can use cheap and efficient tools which, although

simple, are a must in an effort to achieve the expected teaching goals. Besides being able to use the available tools, teachers are also required to be able to develop skills in making learning media that will be used in the Media is not yet available. For this reason, teachers must have sufficient knowledge and understanding of learning media. Hamalik, 1986 considers media as a means of communication to make the teaching and learning process more effective.

One of the tools that can be used to overcome the above obstacles is by using learning media. In the teaching and learning process, the use of Media is very important. Sadiman (2006) says that educational media can overcome differences in learning styles, interests, intelligence, limited sensory power, disabilities, or geographical barriers, time and others. Besides, the Media is no longer seen only as a tool for teachers to teach, but more as a channel for messages from the teacher (message giver) to students (message recipient).

The use of song media as an alternative to learning helps student's master English pronunciation. The advantage of using song media for students is that fast pronunciation in memorizing them can be remembered for a long time. Songs can also create joy for students, making it easier to follow English learning. Thus, it can be concluded that the Media is an inseparable part of the teaching and learning process to achieve educational goals in general and to learn objectives in schools in particular.

In connection with the explanation above, the researcher intends to find out students' perceptions about the use of English songs in English learning classes. Research suggests that the use of children's songs is one technique that can encourage students to be interested in English and recognize new words in class and make the teaching and learning process more enjoyable. Researchers are interested in knowing whether students have the same perceptions as researchers or not. It is hoped that after knowing students' perceptions about the use of children's songs in English class, students can have good motivation to be able to progress even better.

1.2. Research Question.

The questions of this research is:

- What are the students' perception of the use of English song in English classes?

1.3. Limitation of the Research

To simplify this research, the researcher limits the research by the only focus on students' perception toward the use of English song for learning English. The researcher also limit the research at VII H and VII I class in SMPN 16 Jambi city as the sources of data.

1.4 Purposes of the Research

From the formulation of the problem above, so this research aims to find what is the students' perception of the use of English song in English classes at class VII H and VII I at junior high school in SMP N 16 Kota Jambi.

1.5 Significance of the Research

This research is expected to have a significant contribution to quality improvement of language teaching. In particular, it is expected to be a very useful input for foreign language teachers in teaching pronunciation. The researcher believes that the research will help the student to have new learning source to help to develop their English language. The result of the research are able to show the student some method to support their learning process.

1.6 Definition of the Key Term

a. Perception

According to Worchel and Shebilske (1998) perception is the process of interpreting information. Perception is student interpretation on the use of English song in learning English

b. Song

Songs are defined as follows “The word songs refers to pieces of music that have words, especially popular songs such as those one hears on the radio. By music is meant instrumental music, for example, symphonic, chamber, easy listening, or solo instruments such as the organ, flute or guitar” (Griffie,1995). From the explanation, songs are the combination between the music and words. Then the researcher focuses on the learning material that can use songs so that it can make students interested.