

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

In learning English, there are four language skills: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Reading and listening skills are receptive skills, while writing and speaking skills are productive skills. Students can write if they read well, and they can speak if they have good listening skills.

Wallace (2004) writes that "Listening skill is an important skill because it helps people gain insight, understanding, knowledge, and information, and achieve success in communicating with others. Therefore, listening skill is a very important language skill. However, listening is not a simple process. Someone who listens has to distinguish between sounds, capture and understand vocabulary and grammatical structure, interpret stress and intent, and remember and interpret all at the same time."

Underwood (1989) "simply defines listening as an activity that focuses on understanding the meaning of what is heard. Listening skill in learning English requires students to be able to identify accents, know how to pronounce vocabulary and grammar rules, and understand vocabulary meaning. Therefore, listening skill is not a simple skill because it requires focus, concentration, and the ability to elaborate information. In other words, listening is an active process that involves the mind."

The four skills above have to be taught by English teachers in the classroom, especially for Junior High School students. However, there are many problems faced by English teachers in teaching these four skills proportionally.

Among the four skills mentioned above, listening skill should be taught in the process of education and learning. In listening skill, adequate facilities such as a conducive room, free of noise, and proper media such as audio recorders and videos are needed. In listening activities, students are required to be able to get information. According to Tyagi (2013) "The listening process includes four stages, namely listening, understanding, remembering, evaluating, and responding. Based on those, the right method needs to be applied so that students are able to explore listening skill maximally."

From the researcher interview with teachers in Junior High School 2 Kota Jambi, it is found that they consider teaching listening difficult. There are several factors, especially learning media factors and learning environments, that are less conducive. The teachers say that teaching listening in the classroom currently uses audio-only.

The problem is that students have difficulty concentrating when the teachers teach listening. In addition, the arrangement of the seats is no different from ordinary classrooms, so students easily interact with their friends during the learning activities, which disturbs the concentration of other students. As a result, students' comprehension is not satisfying.

Using the proper approach is necessary to assist students in developing their listening abilities. When teaching listening skills, it is crucial to apply authentic

teaching resources and assign pertinent assignments. It is hoped that students' listening abilities will be substantially improved by using media such as audiovisual material. The approach needs to be modified to match students' aptitude. Pre-listening, while-listening, and post-listening are all phases in the learning process for listening skills, and each can be accomplished using a particular technique.

One possible solution is to provide multimodal listening resources, such as audio accompanied by visuals (video). Audiovisual media, which simultaneously displays sound and visual images, is expected to focus students' attention and enable them to correlate the information heard with graphic visualization to increase understanding. Examples of audiovisual media that can be used for listening skills include films, lectures, and news broadcasts.

Technology is an essential part of modern life. Technological innovations continue to develop and positively impact various aspects of life, such as education, business, healthcare, and entertainment. However, technology can also affect a person's social and mental life if not used wisely. Therefore, it is important to use technology in a positive and balanced way to maximize its benefits and minimize its negative impacts.

With the presence of technology, it provides a variety of learning media, one of which is through audio only and audio with visuals. The target of audio-visual is oral skills, so there is a lot of learning through listening and speaking. However, there is still not enough research on whether audio-visual or audio only can improve understanding. Therefore, the researcher wants to conduct research titled “Comprehension of Audio Visual and Audio Only in Listening Materials at SMPN 2 Kota Jambi.”

1.2. Formulation of the Problem

This study aims to address the effectiveness of audiovisual in improving students' listening comprehension skills compared to audio-only materials. Given the observed differences in students' performance when exposed to audiovisual and audio-only materials, this research seeks to examine how these modes impact comprehension at SMPN 2 Kota Jambi.

1.3. Research Questions

To guide the research one research question is formulated as follows: “Is there a statistically significant difference in comprehension scores between students exposed to audiovisual and those exposed to audio-only materials?”

1.4. Research Objective

The purpose of this research is to compare students' understanding through audio-only and audiovisual methods. The aim is to determine whether students understand better with audio only or with audiovisuals.

1.5. Significance of the Research

The conclusion of this study is to determine which learning method is more suitable to apply to junior high school students to improve their listening skills. This research can be used by future researchers who focus on learning methods through audio-visual means to enhance listening skills. This learning method can be used by teachers who want to teach listening to students in the future.

1.6. Keywords

1. Listening

Listening is an important material in English because we have to be able to know what people are saying to us. To be able to master listening we must really understand the words we hear.

2. Audio Visual

Audio Visual is an audio-visual media, namely a type of media that besides containing sound elements also contains image elements that can be seen. Audio-visual media consists of silent audio-visual, namely media that displays sound and still images such as sound frame films, sound sequence films (Wina Sanjaya 2010).

3. Audio

Audio is the sound produced from the vibrations made by an object. In order to be captured by the human senses, it must have a power of at least 20 times/second. If the number is less than 20 times/second then it cannot be heard by the five human senses.