

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Research Background**

Listening skill is a skill that is closely related to the development of reading and writing. When listening to something, humans generally have an imagination that comes out spontaneously. Especially if this happens to students who are aggressive and active in thinking creatively and imaginatively. Students with good listening skills will produce a lot of imagination, creativity, and positive thinking skills, they can learn to make predictions, infer meaning, and draw conclusions based on what they hear. Thus, students need sufficient listening training to learn to capture audio and decipher it in individual words and build meaning progressively.

It is important to know that how to improve listening skills in English can be supported by providing sufficient time for media which has been recognized as an excellent learning medium due to its utilization of various multimedia methodologies and resources.

Various tools, including videos, audio books, movies, and videotapes play an important role in teaching listening skills, especially since students need to keep up with technology to support more creative and flexible learning. Video content offers many elements that interest students, especially with the ease of access that makes it easy for students to adapt. This includes videos from TED Talks, which can be used as audio learning media for the acquisition of listening skills in English. TED Talks are also utilized by teaching staff as one of the media for an interesting learning system. With an interesting learning media component,

it will attract students to be motivated to continue learning, one of which is learning listening skills through TED Talks. Researchers have also said Mayer (2021) asserts that interesting learning videos can increase students' cognitive engagement through a combination of visual and audio. Videos help break complex information into more understandable parts, thus increasing student motivation to learn. This suggests that the design of video content is crucial to motivate students in online learning. This further confirms that learning with interesting and up-to-date media will make students more motivated to learn and engage in every lesson.

Studies show that TED Talks are effective to improve communication skills, which translates to improved levels of students' listening ability. Particularly in the context of language learning and public speaking, Nurmukhamedov (2017). TED Talks offer authentic content with a variety of themes, which helps students acquire new vocabulary that they hear through the videos on TED Talks. They hear through the videos in TED Talks, so this can automatically improve students' listening skills. Can automatically improve students' listening skills in English, Nguyen and Boer (2019).

Carril (2020) asserts that TED Talks provide a supportive environment for learners. Thus TED Talks as one of the most famous top-tier video networks on the internet, hosts many interesting speaker programs on various topics, including English. This provides considerable development especially in listening skills. To explore and examine the usefulness of TED Talks for students, the researcher selected participants from the 2021 English Education cohort at Universitas Jambi who had completed the *Listening for Academic Purposes* course. The researcher

specifically chose students from this class because they had experience using TED Talks as a learning medium. Some students were newly introduced to the TED Talks channel during this course, and the learning process became more engaging and enjoyable due to the use of TED Talks. This sparked the researcher's curiosity and led to the desire to investigate whether TED Talks had a significant impact on students' listening skills by analyzing their perceptions of using TED Talks as a learning media in listening skill.

This research has previously been studied and developed by several researchers. The most recent study was conducted by Awaliyah (2024) with the title *"Students' Perceptions on the Use of TED Talks in a Listening for Academic Purposes Classroom."* In her research, Awaliyah found that almost all students in the class she studied used TED Talks, and some experienced significant improvements in their listening skills. Awaliyah employed a qualitative phenomenology method in her study.

Another more recent study was conducted by Dea (2023) entitled *"Students' Perception of the Use of English Podcasts in Listening Skill."* Using a descriptive qualitative approach, Dea also explored a similar topic, focusing on students' perceptions of using English podcasts. This study shares similarities with the current research in terms of research methods and themes. Both studies reported positive findings, showing that students who used learning media for their English learning performed better. Most of the respondents in their studies experienced significant benefits from using learning media, leading to a gradual

improvement in their listening skills. To obtain research findings, they utilized semi-structured interviews.

In the same year, another study was conducted by Sabrina and Irma (2024) entitled *"Students' Perception of Using TED Talks Videos in the Indonesian EFL Context."* The researchers used a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods. Also, in the same year, Nenti and Perdhani, (2024) conducted a study entitled *"Students' Perception toward Independent Listening Using TED Talks,"* employing a descriptive quantitative research design. The earliest study in this review was conducted by Ratnaningsih, and Gumiandari (2022) entitled *"The Impact of TED YouTube Channel to Improve Listening in English Learning Students of TBI IAIN Cirebon."* This research used a quantitative survey design method.

Among these three studies, most used a descriptive quantitative approach or a mixed-method design. To collect and analyze data, they utilized interviews and questionnaires. Their findings indicated that many respondents faced difficulties using learning media as a practice method for improving their English proficiency. However, despite the challenges, their English skills gradually improved over time.

This difference distinguishes the current study from previous studies. Many previous studies mostly used quantitative methods and relied on questionnaires as their main data collection tool. In contrast, this study uses a qualitative case study approach. Although this study is almost similar to Awaliyah (2024) in terms of methodology, Awaliyah uses a phenomenological approach,

while the current study adopts a case study. Therefore, this study differs from previous studies in terms of methodology and theoretical framework.

Therefore, by using qualitative case study as the research method. This study aims to explore student perceptions of the using TED Talks as listening learning materials, especially in the 2021 English Education study program at Universitas Jambi.

## **1.2. Research Question**

What are EFL students' perceptions of TED Talks as learning media in listening skills?

## **1.3. Limitation of Research**

This study focused on English Education students at Jambi University, from the class of 2021. After selecting participants through a questionnaire, the researcher selected five participants to be participants in this study, who were then interviewed used semi-structured interviews. The participant criteria were EFL students who took the Listening and Speaking for Academic Purposes course in the second semester of the previous academic year AND USED ted Talks as media learning tool in daily listening learning.

## **1.4. Research Purpose**

The purpose of this study is to find out EFL students' perceptions of using TED Talks as a learning media in their listening skills. This study also to find out meaningful learning gained by students implementation in real life.

### **1.5. Significance of Research**

The results of this study are meant to have theoretical and practical implications. The details of the significance are as follows:

#### **1. Theoritically**

The author goals from this research, students can be more enthusiastic and more interested in learning English from various sources, one source that is currently easy to reach is the YouTube channel by finding channels that are useful and informative for learning English.

#### **2. Practically**

- a. This study provides information or insight to readers about what students' perspectives are on the use of TED Talks as a learning media in listening skill.
- b. For students. The use of informative, creative, and interactive media such as YouTube media on the TED Talks channel can be an interesting for students, so that students can be motivate to learn listening skills through technological media, such as TED Talks.
- c. For teachers. This study can be a reference for teaching methods with the latest methods, by first looking at students' perceptions of the use of technology media to be used as innovative learning media.

This study can provide new information and insights to readers about how TED Talks can motivate students to learn listening skills.

## **1.6. Definition of Key Terms**

### **1. Perceptions**

Brown (2007) defines in the book *Principles of Language Learning and Teaching*, that perception is the process by which individuals interpret and organize the stimuli from their environment to form an understanding or meaning. As such, perception involves the active interaction of sensory information based on prior experience, knowledge, and individual expectations.

### **2. TED Talks**

TED Talks is one of the applications that can be used as a learning medium. Sugimoto (2020) defines TED Talks as highly curated presentations designed to communicate complex ideas to a general audience in an engaging and easy-to-understand way. As such, TED Talks are short video presentations where speakers discuss phenomenal subjects with ideas worth spreading to captivate the audience. With the aim to inspire, educate and motivate viewers who watch this TED Talks channel.

### **3. Listening Skill**

Listening skills involve understanding spoken words and body language, until finally the body can provide the right response. This sentence is the same as stated by Hamilton and Hargie (2023) who define listening skills as the ability to process verbal and nonverbal messages.