

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English is an international language, everyone uses English to communicate, especially communicating between countries. English is considered important in Indonesia, in addition for Indonesian learn English is very important because with the ability to speak English, it will be easier to get a job, going abroad, and others. According to Ina Yusuf Kusuma (2007), develop an understanding of intercultural and cultural interconnections and broaden the cultural horizon. Thus learners have cross-cultural insights and involve themselves in cultural diversity.

In Indonesia English is a compulsory subject taught in Elementary School, junior high school, senior high school and college. There are four skills that are usually taught to students, listening, speaking, reading and writing. Listening is the process of listening to something and we can capture the meaning and purpose of something we listen. Generally, students have difficulties in listening lessons, it is undeniable because students do not get used to listen to sounds in English, especially the lack of sensitivity to words or sentences that come out, the lack of vocabulary also greatly affects the listening skills of students. But listening is still very important for students in the English learning process because to make students can speak English we have to train students in listening. Students will not know how to pronounce a word without listening the word is spoken. Listening is

the foundation for students in the process of learning English. According to I.S.P Nation and Jonathan Newton (2009), Listening is the natural precursor to speak; the early stages of language development in a person's first language (and in naturalistic acquisition of other languages) are dependent on listening. Before being able to speak the students should listen first, listening is the basic skill for students to speak English.

Listening is one of the skills that need to be mastered by university students. The ability to listen and understand a person talking in English to communicate with other people is important. Students who are good at listening will understand more of what the speakers says. Morley (1991 Celce-Murcia, n.d.) states that “they expect to listen twice as much as they speak, four times more than they read, and five times five times more than they write. Listening is the ability to accurately receive and interpret messages in the communication process. “listening is not only hearing something”. Schwartz (1994) argues that “it has been estimated that adults spend almost half of their communication time listening, students may receive as much as 90% of their information through listening to instructors and to one another”. Listening is the language modality that is used most frequently. Listening must be done in real time. There is no second chance, unless, of course, the listeners specially ask for repetition when they listen to speakers.

Allah said in the Al-Quran surah Al-A'raf verse 204 :

وَإِذَا قُرِئَ الْقُرْآنُ فَاسْتَمِعُوا لَهُ وَأَنْصِتُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ ﴿٢٠٤﴾

In this verse Allah stated to attention in earnest to the Al-Quran. Listen to the Al-Quran preferably when is reciting, or even better on reading its content to be understood, learned lessons from it and practiced with the full consequences.

Accent listening have two types, the first is American accent the second is British audio. In Indonesia generally using American accent in education in daily activities. Because it is usually using American audio, most people when they hear other accent they feel difficult to understand.

British accent is the English language as spoken and written in great Britain or more broadly, throughout the British isles. In UIN Antasari Banjarmasin English Department, listening course 2 usually using American accent when in activities teaching and learning process. Sometimes there are some accents British accent and even then make students confused and find it difficult for them to understand.

Over time and the development of technology, making students feel accustomed to listening to British accents, for example from social media which is currently always used by everyone for daily activities. Many students also have hobbies watching English films that use British accents and listen to songs that the singer sings using British accents.

According to Hasim A Comparative study of students' achievement between listening to American English and British English of the fourth semester students of English department at Uin antasari banjarmasin academic year 2017/2018 said that usually the lecturer of listening subject use both of American and British English in the class when teaching listening, therefore the students are used to listen to them which causes their achievement in listening to American and British accent is not differ to far.

Based on the experience that researchers felt listening to listening course 3 about British Accents, researchers did not understand the material about British Accents and because the students who took these subjects had difficulty while listening and understanding British Accents. Therefore the researcher wants to find out the students 'comprehending skills in English accent and to find out the students' skill in recognizing the pronunciation of English.

Based on the explanantion above, it makes the writer would like to conduct a research entitled “**Students’ Listening Skills on British Accent of English Department at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin**”

B. Problem of Statement

Based on the research background, the research problem is formulated as :

1. How is students’ skill in comprehending British Accent ?
2. How is the students’ skill in recognizing pronunciation British Accent ?

C. Objective of Research

In line with what has been stated in statement of problems, the objectives of study are as follow:

1. To find out the students' skill in comprehending British Accent.
2. To find out the students' skill in recognizing pronunciation British Accent.

D. Significant of the Research

1. English Department must add a portion of the material in syllabus regarding British accent in listening.
2. The lecturer can speak using British accent in the teaching and learning process.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Listening is a process of decoding the sounds that are heard from the phonemes to the text completely.
2. British English is an English language used by the people in Great Britain that is different from American English such in spelling.
3. Accent as a variety of speech differing from other varieties in terms of pronunciation (including intonation) and which identifies a speaker in terms of regionsl origin, social standing and possibility ethnicity.