

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

In this era of rapidly developing technology, learning a foreign language especially English is certainly not an option anymore but a necessity where in every social field nowadays almost entirely applies English. English is a universal language which is considered important as a tool for communicating information amidst various differences between people in the world. As found in the Qur'an surah Ar-Rum in the 22nd verse:

لِّلْعَلَمِينَ لآيَاتٍ ذَٰلِكَ فِي ۙ إِنَّ ۙ وَالْوَاوِيۙكُمۙ أَلْسِنَتِكُمۙ وَآخْتِلَافِ ۙ وَالْأَرۙضِ السَّمۙوَاتِ خَلَقُ ۙ إِلَيْهِ وَمِنَ ۙ

According to Tafsirweb.com by Tafsir Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah under the supervision of Shaykh Prof. Dr. Imad Zuhair Hafidz a professor of the Qur'an faculty at Madinah Islamic University, this verse explains how Allah SWT shows a great sign of his greatness by creating various kinds of languages for us to communicate with each other and various skin tones in order to get to know each other humans from all over the world. As mentioned above, language is able to connect people in establishing communication, in these days of digital era, English is a language that is commonly used because it is one of

the international languages that makes it a language to communicate in various situations.

The use of English in Indonesia is no longer considered something rare, including the ability to listen where listening is one of the important skills in understanding the information conveyed, we often encounter the use of English listening skills when listening to news about the weather, when listening to news about international news on television media, or as simple as when listening to announcements while at a transportation station. However, it is necessary to build up our listening skills, which underpin our ability to communicate and receive information. As stated by Purdy (1997) that listening skills are extremely important in successful communication relationships, whether in individual or group relationships.

People often assume that the development of listening skills is only possible through formal education such as at school or at an English language development course, whereas there are many ways to develop listening skills, especially in the current era where technology has developed rapidly. Talking about technology must not be far from the discussion about Gen Z'ers, a generation that has a close attachment to technology, often referred to as "Digital Natives" this generation was born in the era of smart phones and grew up with the sophistication of computer technology, as well as the ease of accessing the internet network. Without a doubt, this generation has easy access to information obtained through the internet, especially in accessing various

media applications that support their interest in everything, including the English language.

There are many applications nowadays that offer learning with interesting and creative services for skill development, it is also not uncommon to find applications that focus primarily not as a learning medium but can be utilized as a medium for skill development, one of which is Spotify which is a streaming service provider application with millions of music contained therein. Spotify is the most widely used music streaming application at this time, surely for Gen Z'ers this application can be utilized as a supporting media to develop listening skills. Spotify contains music from all over the world, most of the music that is often found is English music. According to Purcell (1992) English songs make it easier for listeners to remember new words or phrases easily because they are accompanied by rhythms and melodies that make it easier for listeners to minimize feelings of boredom compared to listening to monotonous dialogue talks.

In the research conducted by Khidayah, et al. (2021) they investigated "The Effectiveness of Joox Application in Teaching English" the results they found were that the use of the Joox application was able to increase the average score of students in the post-test compared to the pre-test, also stated that in learning English the use of the Joox application made the students becomes more excited and interested in learning English. Apriyanti (2024) has conducted research regarding "The Use of Spotify as a Vocabulary Learning Tool for

Individual Learners" in her research stated that music streaming application Spotify can be an application that is utilized as a vocabulary learning media and is proven to be effective in improving various vocabulary skills for students. Ilyas & Kaniadewi (2023) in their research entitled "Students' Perception on the Use of Spotify to Improve Students' Pronunciation" found that students agree about how Spotify is useful in developing pronunciation skills especially because it is equipped with various features that support learning, they also argue that listening to music while observing the lyrics can have an effect on improving pronunciation skills and increasing their interest in listening to English songs.

Based on the data and the information described above, researchers are interested in investigating how Gen Z'ers' listening skills are after listening to English songs on Spotify and what listening strategies they use when listening to English songs on Spotify and researcher decided to carry out this research at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin with the specifications of students majoring in English education in the eight semester who have taken listening courses.

B. Definition of Key Terms

Several terms related to the research are clarified to avoid misconceptions.

1. Spotify Application

Spotify Application is a medium that provides streaming music and podcasts from around the world and from various genres. Spotify is the most demanded application for the music streaming application category recorded in 2013 there have been more than 1 billion android users who have used spotify and continue to increase to date. In this research, spotify is intended as a supporting learning media to develop listening skills for Gen Z'ers.

2. Gen Z'ers

Gen Z'ers commonly referred as generation Z, the generation that came after millennials and those born between 1995 and 2010. This generation is also referred to as digital natives, who are accustomed to the presence of the internet and technology. In this research, the Gen Z'ers focuses on students majoring in English education at UIN Antasari Banjarmasin.

3. Listening Skills

Listening skills is the skill to understand the information conveyed by the speaker so that the message conveyed can be

understood properly by the listener and the message is conveyed effectively. In this research, the skill of listening can be known by how much participants master aspects of the microskills and macroskills of listening.

C. Research Questions

Based on the background of the research above, the main questions to be addressed in this research are:

1. How were the Gen Z'ers listening skills after listening English song on Spotify Application?
2. What listening strategies are applied by Gen Z'ers while listening English song on Spotify Application?

D. Objectives of Study

According to the research questions above, the research aims to investigate:

1. To determine the Gen Z'ers listening skills after listen English song on Spotify Application.
2. To investigate listening strategies are applied by Gen Z'ers while listening English song on Spotify Application.

E. Significance of Study

The results of this research are expected to be able to help the following:

1. For the Students

Students can gain benefit of knowledge from this research on how their listening skills can be improved by utilising engaging and exciting application media.

2. For the English Teacher

From this research, teachers can find out how useful applications whose main function is not for learning can support the development of their students' listening skills.

3. For Practitioners

This research can be a reference by other practitioners in conducting research in the development of English language skills.

4. For Researcher

This research can provide new insights for researchers on how applications whose main function is not for learning can contribute to the development of skills.