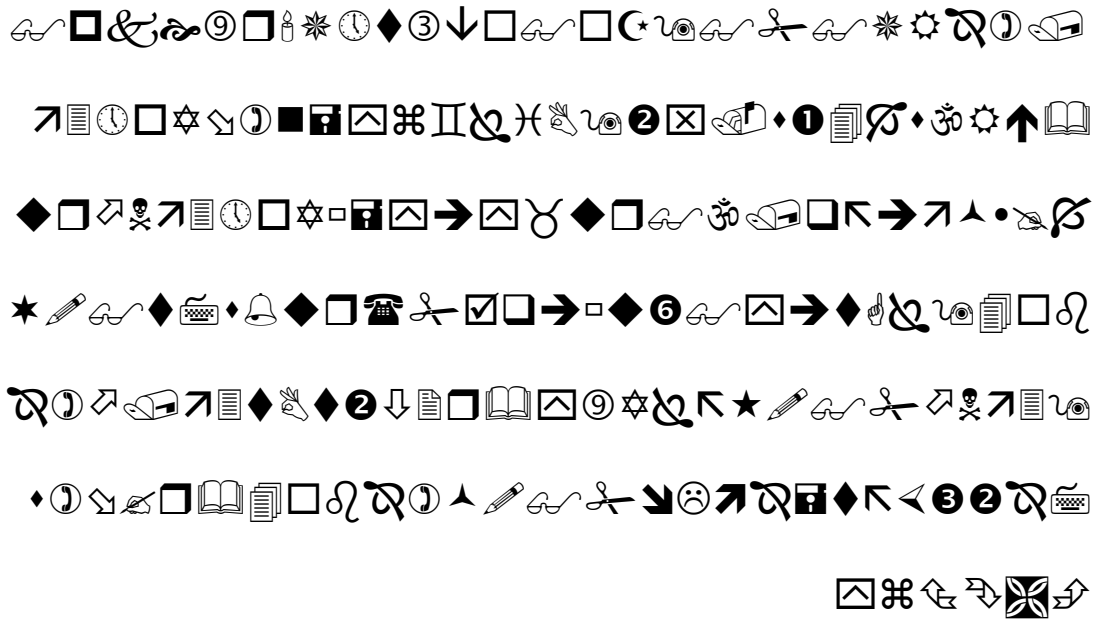


# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Language is given by God to human in the world. Every human needs language and language is important for human life. Language as gift from God to humans is stated in the holy Quran Al-Hujurat verse 13 as follows:



The verse explains that language has an important role in human life because humans use language to communicate and express their ideas, feelings and emotions to other humans. So, learning a language is very important to know each other.

English as international language has become the most important language to know by people in the world. Some of life aspects like literary, technology, science culture etc. are in English that makes almost every country in the world including Indonesia put English as part of their education.

In Learning English, there are four skills that should be mastered by English learners. These skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. The first skill that takes role in learning English is listening.

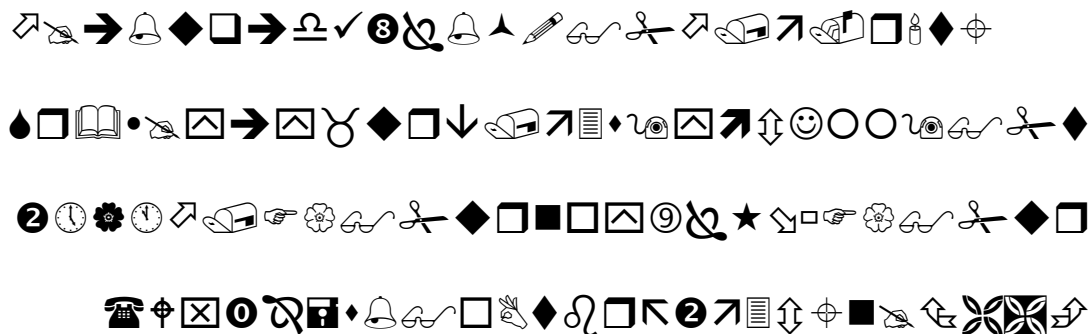
Listening is a process of receiving something spoken or expressed by using human ears. Listening is used to get information from the speaker. Because listening is a receptive skill so that makes listening takes the first role in acquiring or learning language.

Listening is placed in important position in the holy Qur'an. Allah stated in Taahaa verse 13 as follow:



This verse explains that we have to listen to someone that gives us the information.

Also listening placed in the first position that mentioned in the holy Qur'an. This is related to the acquiring and learning language that listening takes the first role instead of other skills. Allah mentioned in the holy Quran al-Mulk verse 23 as follow:



This verse describes that the first skill in learning a language is listening, by listening, people can understand whatever other people say in daily life.

The Ministry of Education in Indonesia holds a test nationally once in a year, that also called national examination. It aims to measure students' knowledge from elementary up to senior high school in certain subjects. The subjects are arranged by the level of students. For senior high school students, English is one of the subjects that tested in national examination. There is a listening comprehension test in English subject that measures students' listening ability in English. Nashruddin (2013) stated in his book that Listening is tested in many language proficiency tests, such as in TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC, and also National Examination (*Ujian Nasional/UN*). This means that listening is also used in common examination such as TOEFL, IELTS, TOEIC and UN.

All senior high schools including vocational senior high school and Islamic senior high schools are preparing to face listening comprehension test in national examination. The twelfth grade students from various programs such as science

program, social program, religion program and language program are preparing to face listening comprehension test in English subject.

Based on the writer pre-observation to research location, teachers prepare their students to face national examination in certain subject including English. English teacher improves students' listening ability to face listening comprehension test in national examination due to the limitation because the school does not have language laboratory. The reason why the writer chooses this title is because the ability in listening comprehension is very important in national examination especially in English because in English subject there are listening section that tested the students' ability in listening. The writer chooses the twelfth grade because all the twelfth grade students including twelfth grade students of MA. Al-Hidayah will face national examination. Not only that, the research location is located in village area and the research location that chosen by the writer only applies language program. The writer also wants to know how far the ability in listening comprehension is at the twelfth grade in language program of MA. Al-Hidayah Martapura Barat.

Based on the background above, the writer is interested in doing a research entitled "The Students' Ability in Listening Comprehension at the Twelfth Grade of Language Program of MA. Al-Hidayah Martapura Barat."

## **B. Statement of Problems**

The writer has the following statement of the problems:

1. How is the students' ability in listening comprehension at the twelfth grade of language program of MA Al-Hidayah Martapura Barat?
2. What types of question in the listening comprehension test are very difficult and difficult for students to answer?

### **C. Objective of Study**

The writer has the following objectives:

1. To find out the students' ability in listening comprehension at the twelfth grade of language program of MA. Al-Hidayah Martapura Barat.
2. To find out types of question in the listening comprehension test that are very difficult and difficult for students to answer at the twelfth grade of language program of MA. Al-Hidayah Martapura Barat.

### **D. Significance of Study**

The results of this study are expected to have the following significance:

1. For teacher, as a helpful effort to improve students' ability in listening comprehension.
2. For students, as self-assessment to improve their ability in listening comprehension.
3. For the writer, as an input for himself to enrich his knowledge and experience in scientific research.

4. For other researchers, as additional information in research about students' ability in listening comprehension.
5. For the libraries of Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies and Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teachers Training, so that this thesis can give a new contribution, especially for those who want to improve their English knowledge and their listening ability.

#### **E. Definition of Key Terms**

Definition of key terms, which is necessary to clarify briefly in order to avoid misunderstanding, can be mentioned as follow:

1. Ability

Ability is the mental or physical capability, the power of skill required to do something (Hornby, 1995).

Ability here means the skill or capability in listening.

2. Listening

Listen or Listening is an effort to hear somebody or something (Hornby, 1995).

Listen is to pay attention to what someone is saying or to a sound that you can hear (Longman Advanced American Dictionary, 2000).

3. Comprehension

Comprehension is an exercise aimed at improving or testing one's understanding of language (Hornby, 1995).

#### 4. Listening Comprehension

Listening comprehension is an exercise that tested one's understanding of a language by listening to somebody or something that use the language.

Based on the definitions of key terms above, this research is intended to know the skill of understanding English language in listening test at the twelfth grade of language program of MA. Al-Hidayah Martapura Barat.