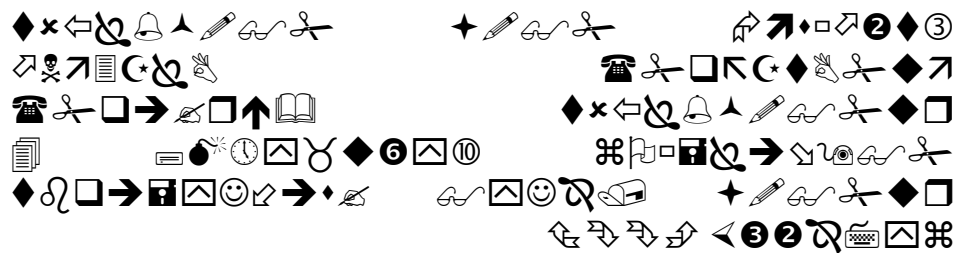


# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Islam is a religion that put knowledge in high position. Islam commands all muslims to seek knowledge to anywhere in the world, even to a country far away from home “*Uthlubul ‘ilma wa lau bi al-shiin*” which means that Islam commands all muslims to seek knowledge even to China. The reason why it was to china because, at that time, China was the most advanced country in the world, even though the Chinese people were not muslim. Allah also said that he would raise the person who has knowledge to high position, it is mentioned in the holy Qur’an in Al Mujadalah: 11:



Thus, persons who have knowledge will have a high position in the eye of Allah and also among human kinds.

Education is one important way for human to be knowledgeable. Good education can improve the quality of people and also the country. The country whose people are educated will be an advanced country whose policies are

respected by other countries and whose words are listened by other countries in the world.

In this era of globalization, in order to be advanced people need to communicate with other people around the world who speak different languages. This international communication requires people to speak more than only one language. So, besides speaking in our own language, we need to be able to speak other languages that enable us to communicate with people whose language differs from our language.

Right now, English language is one of languages that have been international language. It is spoken as international communication. It is now used almost everywhere in the world. Whatever the country people travel to, English is almost always useful for communication, and whatever profession people may have, English is never useless for getting wider connection to international communication. English is used as the language of communication between people who speak different languages. A Japanese and a Mexican will speak in English language, an Arabian and a Chinese will also speak in English, even an Indonesian and Malaysian might also communicate in English. With good skill in English, a person can always communicate to anyone everywhere.

Considering the importance of English language in developing the country, Indonesian government has included English language in the educational curriculum in the stages of Education high school level to University level. In informal education, some parents at home even also try to introduce English to their children as early as possible, and this makes some play-groups (day care)

and kindergarten include English language to their features to attract parents' interest to their school. In non-formal education, English is also one of most wanted thing to master, as we can see there are many courses of English are everywhere in the city.

In English language, as well as other languages, there are four skills that should be mastered by its learners. Those important skills of language are listening, speaking, reading, and writing skill. When considering interpersonal communication competence, listening is the first skill to master, but when considering academic competence, listening is the second skill to be mastered after the reading skill.<sup>1</sup> In conclusion, whatever the purpose people have in learning English listening skill is very important to master.

People do agree that English language skill is one important factor in improving our selves, but when some students at schools are asked about what they think of English language, most of them will answer that English is a difficult lesson. It even becomes one of the most-frightened lessons in the school. English language is important, yet it is difficult for many people. One of the things that make its learning difficult is that many students consider that English grammar is complicated and not very interesting to learn, whereas the learning process of any subject will be a lot better if the students are interested in what they are learning. This is also applicable in teaching listening skill. As Blackman said

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<sup>1</sup> Muriel Saville-Troike, *Introducing Second Language Acquisition*, (The Ediburgh Building, Cambridge University Press, 2010), p. 137

that there are two most important factors in improving listening skill; they are the interest of students and the purpose of the students for listening.<sup>2</sup>

As well as other skills of English language, listening is also considered difficult. Listening to English native speakers' conversation is often a challenging thing. The speech rate, the intonation of the speakers, the unfamiliar vocabularies are mostly the most problematic things in understanding to native speakers' speaking.

In learning English some fun media can be used by teachers. In order to get students' interest, beside some conversational or lectures material, English songs could be one alternative of good media to teach English listening skill. Especially in these days, English songs and movies are in every media. It is very easy to find English songs and movies, and many teenagers are really into those English music. Presenting a song in class once in a while will make learning English more fun and interesting.

English songs are not only fun and interesting. They are also useful in teaching many skills in English. As what some experts say that music is a universally popular medium and songs often tell a story, and song is an excellent vehicle to show how sentence are connected.<sup>3</sup> So, by listening to an English song, students can learn the content of the song and also train their ears to be more familiar with English language. When they are familiar with listening to English through songs, the problems in listening comprehension could be reduced.

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<sup>2</sup> Wagner-Hosier Blackman, *Listening Games – Building Listening Skill with Instructional Games*, (Tien Wah Press, Singapore, 1976), p. 110

<sup>3</sup> David Nunan & Lindsay Miller, *New Ways in Teaching Listening*, (New Ways in Teaching Series, 2002), p. 249

Interest in English songs can lead students to listen to English songs more often, and more repetition in an activity might form a habit. A student who likes listening to English songs usually will listen to those songs again and again. By doing so, the habit in listening to English songs will form in her/himself. The activity to listen to song will be done by him/her very easily. Turning on the radio tape, cell phone, laptop, computer, or any other media will be done automatically and with no effort anytime he/she wants.

In fact, many students love listening and even singing English songs. It is probably because those English songs are considered “cool” and trend. More and more teenagers start to enjoy English songs. For some persons, this kind of hobby will easily lead them to be more curious and enthusiastic to learn English. They will listen to English song as often as possible, start to sing the song out loud imitating the singers, memorize the lyrics, and be more curious to find out the meaning of the song. If they find some difficult words they will ask other persons who have good English or they can open the dictionary and find the meaning by themselves. This kind of activities will help them improving their English. Even when they only listen to the song, the habit in listening to English songs could help their ears to get familiar to English words and sounds.

A research on study habit and academic achievement has been done by many researchers one of them is Omotore Tope from Nigeria. In his research he found that the study habit and academic achievement are in positive correlation. The better study habit the students have, the better grade or achievement he/she will get. Tope also mention a quote from Azikiwe that “good study habits are

good assets to learners because they (habits) assist students to attain mastery in areas of specialization and consequent excellent performance, while opposite constitute constraints to learning and achievement leading to failure”.<sup>4</sup> The writer has not found a research about students’ habit in listening to English songs and it’s correlation to their listening comprehension skill. The writer has an assumption that in listening comprehension skill, students’ habit in listening English material is influential to their listening comprehension skill. Songs that are in English lyrics could also be useful for students to get familiar to listening to English language as they listen to the songs again and again.

Having an assumption that listening to English songs is an effective way to improve listening skill and having a desire to do a research about it in the English department of IAIN Antasari; the writer came to Mrs. Maulidiyah, who is the lecturer for listening subjects in the English department, in order to do a pre-research observation about the students’ skill in listening comprehension. According to her, students in English department are passionate learners, especially in listening subject. A few of them has very good skill in listening comprehension, but most of them have low or even very low skill in listening comprehension.

Having this pre-research view about the students’ of English department student listening comprehension skill, the writer is interested in doing a research about the students’ listening skill in correlation to their habit in listening to English songs to know if really there is a correlation between them. An

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<sup>4</sup> Omotore Tope, *The Effects of Study Habit On The Academic Performance Of Students: A Case Study Of Some Secondary Schools In Ogun State*, (Egobooster books, Nigeria, 2012), p.8

assumption that this habit could be very useful for English learners and the pre-research outlook of the students' skill in listening encouraged the writer to arrange a research design entitled **THE CORRELATION BETWEEN STUDENTS' HABIT IN LISTENING TO ENGLISH SONGS AND THEIR ENGLISH LISTENING COMPREHENSION SKILL OF THE SEVENTH SEMESTER STUDENTS IN ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT TARBIYAH FACULTY OF IAIN ANTASARI ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013.**

## **B. Operational Definition**

To avoid a misinterpretation of this title the writer needs to define some words or expression mentioned in the title, they are:

### **1. Correlation**

Correlation is derived from the word "correlate" in English language. Correlational research attempts to determine whether or not and to what extent a relationship between two or more variables exist. Furthermore, correlation here means that the type of this research will be a scientific research to show the correlation between the two things.

### **2. Habit**

The conceptualization of habit in this study is defining it as learned sequences of acts that have become automatic responses to specific situation, which may be functional in obtaining certain goals or end states.<sup>5</sup>

### **3. English songs**

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<sup>5</sup> Verplanken, Aarts, & Knippenberg, *Habit, Information Acquisition, and the Process of Making Travel Mode Choice*, (1997).

Any kind of songs with English language lyrics

### **C. Research Questions**

Based on the background of the study before, the problems of the study are:

1. How is the students' habit in listening to English songs?
2. How is the students' English Listening comprehension skill?
3. Is there any correlation between students' habit in listening to English songs and their listening comprehension skill?

### **D. Reason for Choosing the Title**

Some reasons that make the writer chose the topic are:

1. As the seventh semester students of English Department are considered senior students and they are expected to have good skill in listening comprehension.
2. Investigating the level of students listening comprehension skill is important to do. So by knowing the result the department can plan further steps forward to improve or to maintain the students' level in listening comprehension.
3. Improving listening skill will help in improving all English skills generally.
4. English songs are very popular these days and many students like to listen to the songs.



5. If it is proved true that listening to English songs is helpful in improving listening skill, then songs could be a fun media in improving listening skill.

### **E. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the Problem formulation before, this paper will be done for some purposes as follows:

1. To know the students' habit in listening English songs and
2. To know the students' English listening comprehension skill.
3. To know if there any correlation between those habits and their English listening comprehension skill.

### **F. Significance of the Study**

Some significances of this study are:

1. As an information for students to improve their listening skill in English
2. As a reference for English teachers to tell their students on how to improve listening skill with fun way.
3. As an input for the writer to enrich the writer knowledge and experience in scientific research.
4. As a consideration for the next research in the same object but different point of view.
5. As an enrichment of Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin library's literature.

6. Considerations for educational administrators as input to increase and improve quality of teaching listening comprehension.

### **G. Assumptions**

In relation to the study, the writer states some assumptions as follows:

1. Students' habit in listening to English songs can help them improve their English skills, especially listening comprehension skill.
2. Many English language students like listening to English songs.

### **H. Hypotheses**

The following are the hypotheses which had been formulated for the purpose of the study:

Ha :  $\rho \neq 0$  There is a correlation between students' habit in listening to English songs and their listening comprehension skill.

Ho :  $\rho = 0$  There is no correlation between students' habit in listening to English songs and their English listening comprehension skill.

### **I. Organization of the Writing**

In order to accelerate this research, the writer divided the organization of this research into five chapters as follows:

The first chapter contains the introduction which consists of Background of the Study, Clarification of the Key Terms in the Title, Research Question,

Reasons for Choosing the Title, Objectives of the Study, Significances of the Study, Assumptions, Hypotheses of the Study, and Organization of the Writing.

The second Chapter contains review of literature related to the study. This chapter consists of The Definition of Habit, Characters of Habit which consists of History of Repetition, Automatycity, Contextual Cueing, Describing Identity, Listening Comprehension Skill, and Factors in Listening Comprehension skill.

The third chapter contains of the Methodology of Research which consists of Subject and Object of the research, Data and Source of Data, Techniques of Data Collecting, Design of Measurement, Techniques of Data Processing and Analysis, and Research Procedure.

The fourth chapter contains the Report of Research Result, which consists of Data Presentation and Data Analysis.

The fifth chapter is Closure which consists of Conclusion and Suggestion.