

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is a means of communication which is used by humans to communicate and interact with each other. By language, people could express their ideas and emotions. Without language people cannot make any relationship with others, because language is the most effective tool for communication. In this regard, Finocacchiaro stated that "Language is the means by which results of human thought and action are passed on." (Finocacchiaro, 1987).

The importance of language is also mentioned in the Qur'an Ar Ruum verse 22 as follow:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَخْتَلَفُ اللِّسِنَاتِ وَأَلْوَانِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ

لآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

Based on the verse above we know how important the language is God creates many languages, so that every human in the world can communicate with others to exchange the information in their everyday life.

Language has a significant role so that learning a language becomes a crucial thing for non-English spoken people to do especially English as an international language. Learning English has a great necessity to everyone who realizes the importance of this international language. Because of its importance,

English becomes a compulsory subject in schools starting at junior high school. Nowadays, in some places learning and teaching English is started even from elementary school.

In language learning, especially English, we recognize four skills namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Listening skill is considered as the basic skill that needs to be improved since it provides the aural input that serves as the basis for language acquisition and enables learners to interact in spoken communication. Listening is the first step for students to learn a language. Listening is very important for someone. Listening is different from hearing. Hearing is a physical ability while listening is a skill. Listening means paying attention and making an effort to process what you heard. In other words, listening skill allows you to understand what someone is talking about. Rivers (1981, p. 160) stated:

Listening is not a passive skill, nor even, as traditionally been believed, a receptive skill. Listening is a creative skill. In order to comprehend the sound falling on our ears, we take the raw material of words, and the rise and fall of the voice, and from this material we create significance.

Russel and Russel in Hasyuni (2006, p. 8) also say that listening skill is listening with comprehension, attention and appreciation. Then, listening activity needs integrating skill of language, such as pronunciation, vocabulary mastery, writing, speaking, and reading. Listening is difficult to learn, because listening needs concentration and focus. Students have to listen carefully what the native speaker says.

Listening is the process of understanding speech in a first or second language. It means that listening is one of the major skills that every English student must have. Practically, there are still many students who have lack of listening skill than other skills, especially it is the common problem that most ESL students have. For example, when student could speak English fluently but they could not identify what the native speaker said. It could be influenced by either the speed of speech that is too fast or the low responses skill of what they heard.

According to Ronald Carter (2001), the term listening is used in language teaching to refer to complex process that allows us to understand spoken language. This theory explains that listening is not only recognizing the sound but also student must get the meaning of word. Recognizing the function of the sentences when in an interaction and students must listen carefully. If one sentence cannot be heard clearly, it is difficult to understand other words or sentences.

The writer agrees with Ur (1996, p. 111) who says that there are some students' difficulties in learning listening: getting trouble with sounds, needing understand of every word, being unable to understand fast and natural native speech, needing to hear things more than once, finding it difficult to keep up, and get tired. Listening is difficult to understand, because listening needs carefulness and sufficient vocabulary. Sufficient vocabulary is very important for understanding a language. We need to understand the meaning of the language. Students must add their vocabulary and practice every day to improve their listening ability. Students must listen to anything to for improve their vocabulary.

They can listen to the music or listen about conversation and watching a movie. Successful listening can also be looked at in terms of the strategies the listener uses when listening.

In fact, based on the pre-observation, the writer found that students of MAN 1 Kandangan have many mistakes when they are learning English especially listening. When students listened to the tape, students seem difficult to know what the speaker says. Based on the interview with some students of MAN 1 class XI, she said that the difficulty is because they do not have enough vocabulary and seldom to practice their listening ability. Consequently, students face difficulties to understand what the speaker said when learning listening in the classroom.

According to the background above, the writer is interested in conducting a research entitled: **“Common Errors in Listening of the Eleventh Grade Students at MAN 1 Kandangan Academic Year 2014/2015”**

B. Statement of the Problems

Based on the background above, the writer will investigate the following questions:

1. What is the most common type of errors in listening made by the eleventh grade of MAN 1 Kandangan academic year 2014/2015?
2. What are the causes of errors based on students' perception at the eleventh grade of MAN 1 Kandangan academic year 2014/2015?

C. Objectives of Study

The purposes of this research are:

1. To know the most common type of errors in listening made by the eleventh grade students of MAN 1 Kandangan academic year 2014/2015.
2. To know the causes of errors based on students' perception at the eleventh grade of MAN 1 Kandangan academic year 2014/2015.

D. Significance of Study

The significance of this research are:

1. Giving information about the common errors in listening.
2. Giving information about the impact of common errors in listening to students.
3. For the students, it can improve their ability in learning listening.
4. Enriching the writer's knowledge about the common errors made by students in listening.
5. For teacher should do the best for developing English teaching and learning process by performing better technique and using media to increase students' interest when teaching listening.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation about the title, which is adopted in this study, the writer feels necessary to explain some terms concerning the title as follows:

1. Common error is usual or familiar mistake or something done wrong. The writer felt necessary to give limitations just for the words categories that the writer wants to observe, they are one word stimulus, consonant, vowel, morphological.
2. Listening is an active process by which students receive, construct meaning from, and respond to spoken and or nonverbal messages.
3. Students here are students of the eleventh grade at MAN 1 Kandangan.

Therefore, this research concerns with errors that are commonly made by the eleventh grade students of Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 1 Kandangan academic year 2014/2015 in the active process of listening

Common error in listening is something done wrong made by students in active process in learning listening.