

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

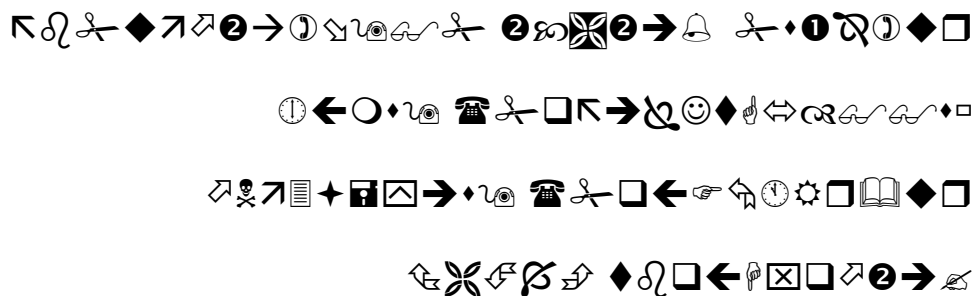
A. Background of Study

Language is an important factor in human life. To understand things and to be understood by human beings, language is needed for communication. Language is universal and a communication device in sending idea, mind, opinion and other. All normal human beings in a community understand to speak well enough to carry out every human life (Pinochhiaro, 1974).

Language is the tool for interacting with each other. Language enables people to communicate and understand more about things around them. One of the popular languages is English. English is an International language that is spoken by most people all around the world. As a result, English is one of the most important foreign languages that is being taught from elementary school up to university level in Indonesia. Because of the importance of English, its teaching in Indonesian school is aimed to produce people mastering English to effectively use the language.

In learning English, there are four skills that should be mastered by the students. The four skills are listening, speaking, reading and writing. In the foreign language classroom, listening becomes the most important skill because it provides input for the learners. For most people, being able to claim knowledge of foreign language means being able to speak and listen.

Listening is a process of activities of hearing speech symbols by full attention, understanding, appreciation, and interpretation to acquire communication meaning that is delivered by the speaker through his speech (Richard & Renandya, 2002). Allah the Almighty said in the holy Koran surah Al-A'raf , verse 204:



As it is said in the holy Koran, Allah the Almighty explained that it is important when people hear they should pay more attention to what they have heard.

Listening is an active, purposeful process of making sense of what people hear (Nunan, 2003). Listening is the absorption of the meanings of words and sentences by brain. It is a skill in a sense that it is a related but distinct process than hearing which involves merely perceiving sound in a passive way while listening occupies an active and immediate analysis of the streams of sounds.

Listening is the ability to identify and understand what others are saying. This involves understanding a speaker's accent or pronunciation, his grammar and his vocabulary, and grasping his meaning (Howatt & Dakin, 1974). An able

listener is capable of doing these four things simultaneously (Harris & Palmer, 1986).

An important skill for students is listening for gist (general understanding) without getting hung up on the meaning of every single word. Listening is one of the receptive skills that people extract meaning from the discourse they hear. Many receptive skill activities prove less successful than anticipated because the topic is not appropriate or because the students are not familiar with the genre they are dealing with.

In listening, the listener should be active because listening is the purposeful process to make sense of spoken language. Listening is another critical and important part of communication. Listening is a receptive skill that requires a listener to receive and understand incoming information (Nunan, 2003). In other words, listening is the process to understand what people hear. Therefore, if listeners want to get the main point of what the speaker said, they should be active when they are listening rather than only hearing.

Teaching listening is one of the most difficult tasks for any teacher. This is because successful listening skills are acquired over time and with lots of practice. It is frustrating for students because there are no rules like in grammar teaching. This is not to say that there are not ways of improving listening skills; however they are difficult to quantify.

Teacher becomes a facilitator, learning personal and social change by assisting the developing person at those points where help is requested. Teachers

should have a set of exercises, tasks or other activities for the students in their classes. It is really beneficial and positive experience to try various classroom activities because successful materials of the subject matter depend on the use of teaching media. To teach listening, there are several media which can be used by the teacher. The influence of the materials and the media of the English teacher in teaching and learning process are really vital, because students will be more interested in following the study. The competence of the teacher in teaching and learning process will also influence the success of students in their study. By using the media, the teacher will easily teach listening.

The Encyclopedia of Educational Research explained that “media refers to various audio and visual communication technologies which have come to be used by educators. Book and other printed material use, of course media too”. Media, which are used in teaching and learning process, are printed materials such as: magazine, newspapers, books and so on, pictures, overhead projector (OHP), tape recorder, CD, cassette, TV set, blackboard, etc.

The existence of media has an important meaning, because media (as the medium) could explain. Media can represent what the teacher cannot say in word or in sentence. It means, the real object is really helpful in teaching and learning process. So, the students are easier to understand the material that they learned.

In fact, it is not easy to use active listening in language learning. Most of students are unmotivated to listen actively. It is called passive listening. Passive listening means the listener does not react or do something that demonstrates they

are listening and have understood. Consequently, when the listeners are passive, they cannot get the point of what the speaker said.

MAN 1 Marabahan is a school that has not a language laboratory facility for teaching and learning English. Sometimes, students face difficulties in learning listening in spite of the teacher's best efforts. Teachers need to look for some media to make the students interested in the lesson. So, the students can improve their listening skill. If there is not an appropriate media, the teacher can get difficulties in teaching listening. In teaching and learning listening, the applied media has the important role. Because media can help teachers to teach listening easily.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in researching the application of media in teaching and learning listening skill at the twelfth grade of MAN 1 Marabahan. So, the writer conducts a research entitled: **The Application of Media in Teaching and Learning Listening at the Twelfth Grade of MAN 1 Marabahan Academic Year 2012/2013.**

B. Statement of Problems

Concerning with the topic, the problems of this research are:

1. What are the media applied in teaching and learning listening at the twelfth grade of MAN 1 Marabahan?
2. How is the application of media in teaching and learning listening at the twelfth grade of MAN 1 Marabahan?

C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the statement of the problems, the objectives of this research are:

1. To know the media applied in teaching and learning listening.
2. To know how is the application of media in teaching and learning listening.

D. Significance of the Research

The result of this research is expected to have the following advantages;

1. For teacher; it will be able to give input for teacher especially English teachers, in the teaching and learning process.
2. For students; it is important in establishing conditions which enable the learners to acquire knowledge, skill and attitude, so that the learning objectives are able to be reached.
3. For other researchers; it gives information and comparison for the researchers who want to continue this research in the future.

E. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation regarding the title, it is necessary to explain some terms in the title as follows:

1. Application, according to Oxford dictionary, means “the act of putting something to practical use”. So, in this research, it means the act of applying media in teaching and learning listening.
2. Media are any devices to help teachers in teaching. In this research, some media the teachers use are limited to aids for teaching listening such as tape recorder, speakers and LCD.
3. Teaching is the action of a person who teaches. It means the teacher’s action or activity in presenting material in the classroom. Teaching here is teacher’s effort to deliver messages such as knowledge, skill, capability to the students.
4. Learning is defined as an effort to gain a certain number of knowledge.
5. Listening is a gerund from the word listen, which means trying to hear and to pay attentions to something we hear. Here, listening is one of the basic skills in the process of learning English.
6. The Twelfth Grade Students at MAN 1 Marabahan in Academic Year 2012/2013 are the students who are in class twelve at the Islamic Senior High School or Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 1 Marabahan in Academic Year 2012/2013.