

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

In this globalization era, English is international language that is widely used in many countries around the world. According to Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia (2009), “the number of native speakers of English ranks fourth in the world with a total of 341 million speakers, and when coupled with the speakers of the second language, the English ranks second in the world with a total of 508 million speakers”. English is the first language in some countries, such as UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and also a second language or also the official language of the member countries of the British Commonwealth, such as India, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Singapore and Malaysia. English is dominating not just because of the impact of the strength of the British Empire and Commonwealth, but also because of the influence of the United States as a superpower which controls the world's economy and politics, as well as a large influence in the technology and information. This resulted in the whole world have to master the English language to be able to "interact" in the international arena.

In Indonesia, which is a multilingual community, English is simply acting as a foreign language. Although taught since attending elementary school (SD), many people in Indonesia has struggled to master the English language. Of

course, this is a matter that must find a way out, because it is very important of the English language. Therefore, in the teaching and learning of English language, methods and techniques are suitable, effective, and efficient continue to be sought and developed.

In language teaching, there are four skills that should be taught to achieve proficiency in the language, namely: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Naturally, in language acquisition, humans first learned to listen, then talk, then read, and then write. Humans can not speak before listening. Wallace, *et.al.* (2004: 13) wrote that listening proficiency is a skill that is very important because these skills that allow humans to gain insights, understanding, knowledge, and information, as well as achieving success in communicating with others. Therefore, listening proficiency is an important skill in the language.

Listening is assuming important thing in many language contexts. It is important in the language classroom because it can provide contribution for learners. If learners cannot understand the process of listening at the right level, the simple learning cannot begin well. In listening, learners are hoped can interact to achieve understanding with accessing the second language speakers. To build their ability in listening can use the exercise that can draw learner's attention and understanding not only in vocabulary but also in grammar, and new interaction patterns in language. Al-Qur'an mentions in Q.S Az Zumar verse 18 :

الَّذِينَ يَسْتَمِعُونَ الْقَوْلَ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ أَحْسَنَهُ ۗ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَاهُمُ اللَّهُ
وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ أُولُوا الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿١٨﴾

Those who listen to the Word [good advice *La ilaaha illallah*- (none has the right to be worshipped but Allah) and Islamic monotheism and follow the best thereof (i.e worship Allah alone, repent to Him and avoid Taghut) those are (the ones) whom Allah has guided and those are those are men of understanding.

However, listening is not a simple process. Someone who listens has distinguish between sounds, capture and understand the vocabulary and grammatical structures, interpret pressure and mean, remember and interpret everything in the same time, and adapt them to the socio-cultural context of the speech is heard (Vandergrift, 2012). Therefore, it is be needed techniques and methods that are effective in teaching listening skills so that the student is able to listen and understand well.

According to Slameto (2010: 10) learning activities are more successful if they relate to the interests, desires, and goals of students. Now, the Indonesian youth has a very great interest in music. This is evidenced by the proliferation of programs and music events in the country are more focused on young people. The big interest of Indonesian youth on music into one thing interesting to study of the influence. Considering the music itself is already frequently used as a medium of instruction. For example, when a child to learn the alphabet using alphabet song, because it was realized to make the child to memorize the twenty six letters at a time without any specific technique not easy. However, to teach the alphabet song, the child can easily remember all the alphabets in sequence in a short time. This indicates that a song, which is composed of musical compositions and lyrics (words) (Knowledgerush, 2009), can be very helpful in remembering things.

Words (lyrics) can be easily accessed from the memory of the human brain during song tone in mind. Moreover, Lang (2010) also says that music education is highly correlated with achievement in other academic fields. Music is associated with brain development. Music can be a special key that prevents students do not attend school and inspires them to outperform various fields.

Music becomes a favorite thing for students in MAN 3 Banjarmasin especially for twelfth grade students. The students like learning English by listening to music more than the others. They also usually want their English teacher to teach them English through music. Therefore, this research will find out whether the students' interest in English songs have a correlation with their listening proficiency.

Moreover, Rasma 'Afifah on her research in 2013 which entitled *the correlation between students' habit in listening to English songs and their English listening comprehension skill*, stated that students' habit in listening to English songs is proven as one of the factors that influence students' listening comprehension skill, but in this research is explain about students' interest in English songs, whether it also have a relationship with students' listening skill or not. The resesrcher has not found a research about students' interest in English songs and it's correlation to their listening comprehension skill. The researcher has an assumption that in listening comprehension skill, students' interest in listening English material is also influential to their listening comprehension skill.

Based on these explanations, it can be assumed that if one has an interest in the song, then it implies that he/she is getting the benefits of the lyrics and

music. Therefore, this is the underlying assumption of this study. This study is made to analyze “**THE CORRELATION BETWEEN INTEREST IN ENGLISH SONGS AND STUDENTS’ LISTENING PROFICIENCY**”, which is focused on listening skills.

B. Problem Statements

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

1. What are the levels of students’ interest in English songs?
2. What are the levels of students’ listening proficiency?
3. Is there any significant correlation between interest in English songs and students’ listening proficiency?

C. Objectives of the Research

The objectives of the research are:

1. To find out the levels of students’ interest in English songs.
2. To find out the levels of students’ listening proficiency.
3. To know the correlation between interest in English songs and students’ listening proficiency.

D. Significance of Research

The significances of this research are:

1. As a reference for English teachers in order to make students not bored.

2. For the students the use of English songs in teaching and learning process will surely attract the students' attention to study.
3. As an input for the writer to enrich the writer knowledge and experience in scientific research.

E. Hypotheses

There are two types of hypotheses which will be tested in this study. They are as follows:

1. Alternative Hypothesis (H_a)

There is a significance correlation between Interest in English Songs and Students' Listening Proficiency in the twelfth grade students of MAN 3 Mulawarman Banjarmasin.

2. Null Hypothesis (H_0)

There is no significant correlation between Interest in English Songs and Students' Listening Proficiency in the twelfth grade students of MAN 3 Mulawarman Banjarmasin.

F. Definition of Key Terms

The definition of key terms are provided as follow:

1. Correlation

Correlation is an association between two or more variables, that is, where changes in one variable are reflected in changes in the other (Creswell, 2008:358).

2. Interest

Something that brings advantages to or affects someone or something. The indicators of this research are the indicators of the questionnaire are emotional factors, motivation from environment, motivation from family, attitude in listening.

3. Song

A short poem or other set of words set to music or meant to be sung. In this research, the writer analyzes the benefits of English songs for students in improving their listening proficiency.