

The Use of Song in Improving Students' Listening Skill

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Abstrak

Keterampilan menyimak merupakan salah satu keterampilan yang harus dikuasai. Namun, banyak siswa mengalami kesulitan pada sesi mendengarkan, terutama dalam memahami apa yang dikatakan pembicara. Hal ini karena mereka memiliki latar belakang pengetahuan yang kurang untuk mendukung pendengaran mereka. Untuk meningkatkan keterampilan mendengarkan mereka, diperlukan strategi yang tepat. Penggunaan lagu di dalam kelas listening dapat meningkatkan minat siswa. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mencari informasi tentang penggunaan lagu dalam meningkatkan keterampilan mendengarkan siswa. Penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian kepustakaan. Temuan penelitian ini dikumpulkan setelah membaca dan menganalisis artikel di media online. Artikel ini memberikan beberapa temuan seperti informasi tentang bagaimana menerapkan lagu, dan temuan lainnya adalah skor mendengarkan siswa meningkat setelah menerapkan lagu dan siswa dapat memperluas kosakata mereka. Menggunakan lagu sebagai media dapat menjadi strategi yang baik untuk memotivasi siswa untuk berlatih mendengarkan mereka.

Kata kunci: Lagu, Keterampilan Mendengarkan, Peningkatan

Abstract

Listening skill is one of the skills that should be mastered. However, many students have difficulty at the listening sessions, especially in understanding what the speaker is saying. It is because they have lack of background knowledge to support their listening. To improve their listening skill, a suitable strategy is needed. The use of songs in the listening classroom can increase students' interest. Therefore, this study aimed at finding information on the use of song in improving students' listening skill. This study used library research. The finding of this study was gathered after reading and analyzing articles in online media. This article provides some findings such as the information about how to implement songs, and the other findings are the students' listening scores improved after implementing song and students can expand their vocabularies. Using song as a medium can be a good strategy to motivate students to practice their listening.

Keywords: Songs, Listening Skill, Improvement

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the Education system, especially in the 21st century, there are four basic skills that are very important to be mastered (Hidayatullah et al., 2021; Mardiana, 2020; Norahmi, 2017). Those are listening, speaking, reading and writing (Supina, 2018). Nowadays, in order to learn a new language for English as a foreign language, the listening skill is needed. Listening is one of the four important skills in learning English that students need to learn (Praheto et al., 2020; Sharma & Puri, 2020). To make student able to speak something or make some sentences in a paper, the listening section is the first stage to begin. Besides, in a class, this listening skill required in an academic context, especially in the listening comprehension course (Hidayat, 2013; Yunita & Jumiyaniti, 2020). Moreover, listening is very important because this ability can help in improving the other skill such as speaking skill significantly (Darti. & Asmawati, 2017). This ability will also increase if you listen to English continuously, and it will affect the way we speak in English. Listening skill is the first foundation to improve speaking and writing skill (Listyaningsih, 2017). Then, to make a good communication with others, we have to understand what they are saying. Hence, when we have a good ability in listening, it means we can communicate naturally to others.

Furthermore, in listening process, there are five important stages (Tyagi, 2013) such as (1) hearing; in this stage the listener gives response to the sound because of the stimulation of the sensory nerves in the ear or just enjoy the sound, (2) understanding; in this stage the listener has to analyze symbols like the meaning of what the speaker said or sound of applause, (3) remembering, this is the important stage for the listeners, because they not only understand, but must remember the words in mind, (4) evaluating; this is the stage before a message is completed. In this stage the active listeners participate to sort the facts from opinions and so on, (5) responding; in this stage the listener gives feedback, which means the sender is successful in conveying the message. Based on the listening stages, students can determine at what stage they are. Besides, it relates to the pronunciation rules, learning English pronunciation will help in improving listening skill because if the pronunciation is wrong, students will be difficult to recognize the words (Lengkoan, 2017).

There are some common problems in listening such as, the speaker on the audio speaks too fast, the recording is not clear, the listeners' lack of background knowledge, the listener cannot identify the words in the listening section, and so on (Mizbani & Chalak, 2017; Nurteteng et al., 2018; Sadiku, 2015). Besides, based on the research conducted by previous researcher found that the result of the pre-liminary observation was the students were still confused and difficult to identify the words used in the listening test (Putri et al., 2018). Also, this listening skill is difficult to be mastered, because this skill needs more concentration to realize the meaning of the sound in the listening section (Jannah et al., 2018). Those problems can happen because the students have not mastered the listening skill yet. Therefore, students must practice listening to English materials and enjoy it. Because it helps in absorbing the new vocabulary said by the speaker.

Based on the problem in listening skill, the teachers need to find a suitable method to make a conducive learning which makes students can pay attention to the learning process. There are a lot of methods that can make the listening course enjoyable. One of them is using song to improve students' listening skill. The way to improve students' listening skill is listening to English song (Listyaningsih, 2017). Using song can build positive atmosphere and also relax students' mind (Putri et al., 2018). The use of the song can give motivation and develop students' interest in listening. That means, by using song and music can stimulate positive encouragement for everyone who learns languages (Kartawijaya & Yelnim., 2021). Moreover, in this modern era, many genres of song are present. A teacher can choose the right and suitable song to be given as stimulation medium for listening class. A song is a medium that can be used in improving listening skill because nowadays we can find song everywhere and use it to train our ears (Afriyuninda & Oktaviani, 2021). Listening to English song can be the beginning to stimulate the brain to recognize words in English. Then, after some practices, the brain will absorb some new words and this can be used to improve the other skills such as speaking and writing (Ilyosovna, 2020; Louis. et al., 2016; Weiwei et al., 2021).

Furthermore, there are some researchers who have studied about the use of song in improving students' listening skill. One of them in the research entitled "Using Disney's theme song to improve students' listening skill at eleventh grade of SMAN 13 Bone" (Mubarak, A. et al., 2020). This study reported that there was an improvement or a positive effect to students' listening skill after implemented Disney's theme song. Moreover the other previous research in their research entitled "Improve students' skill in listening comprehension by using song based on multimedia" reported that more than 75% of students gave positive response to the implementation of song in the listening section (Jannah et al., 2018). Then other previous study in his research entitled "The use of song to increase students' interest in listening class" reported that the result of the research has positive effect which showed the improvement of students' interest in listening class (Yuliyanto et al.,

2018). Those can happen because students can enjoy the learning, especially in listening process. Students will not feel bored because of the fun way of learning and activities given. Besides, when they enjoy the listening section, they will be able to absorb a lot of new vocabulary and this will be a ladder to understand what the speaker is talking about. Implementing song in listening class can give students a chance to increase their interest. By implementing song in class, it can motivate and make a good connection between teacher and students. Hence, a teacher has to choose a suitable song and related to the learning topic which can make students pay attention to the listening section. Therefore, this study aims to analyse the use of song in improving students' listening skill.

2. METHODS

The method that was used in this study was library research. Library research is one of the methods that is used to collect information related to the topic discussed in online and offline sources (Singhal, 1997). In this study, the researcher did not make the observation to collect the data, but the researcher collected all the information by reading e-books, e-journals, e-thesis in online and offline media. In this study, there were three steps that have been done by the researcher. Firstly, the researcher found related information about the use of song in improving students' listening skill. Secondly, the researcher classified the information. The last step is the researcher collected and analyzed the information to support this article. Furthermore, the information that related to the use of song in improving students' listening skill will be explained more in finding and discussion session.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The use of a song is one of the appropriate strategies that can make students follow the listening class. It is because the use of song can give students a positive atmosphere in the classroom. Moreover, there were the steps of the use of song in listening class, as show in Table 1.

Table 1. The steps of the Use of Song in Listening Class

Stages	Activities
Pre-Listening	The teacher explains about the topic of the learning process, keyword and also the structure before playing the song used. This activity can be the first step because it helps students to think about information related. The teacher can make a game like asking students about the theme or title of the song. It can trigger students to use their background knowledge to answer the question given
Listening	The role of the teacher is guiding students to the main tasks. The teacher gives students some activities. The teacher gives students texts related to the song and they have to practice with it. In this stage the students control their listening comprehension skill and focus to the texts.
Post-Listening	The teacher can give students activities to follow-up the other skills such as speaking and writing. This activity is intended to help students connect the knowledge together like connecting on what you hear with your experience, for example, make a summary of the song played and so on.

Base on Table 1, it can assume that students need to practice the listening skill continuously. Because it can improve the other skills as well. Besides, students will be able to recognize the words used by the speaker and understand the meaning or message conveyed.

Then, using song in children listening class is also good, the benefits of using a song in a children's classroom is they can enjoy and sing the song in class. Henceforth, the researcher took several steps in implementing song in children's classes. The teacher prepares the learning material such as a song entitled "Wheels on The Bus". This song is used for the first meeting of the treatment. In the learning session, the teacher divides the listening process into three parts such as pre-listening, while-listening, and post listening. The step of teaching is show in [Table 2](#).

Table 2. Step of Using Song in Children Listening Class

Stages	Activities
Pre-Listening	The teacher introduces the listening material such as vocabulary that related to the song. To keep the interested in the lesson, the teacher uses a picture of a bus and asks them some questions related to the picture.
While-Listening	The teacher shares the lyrics of the song to students. In this activity teacher asks students to fill in the blank with the word missing in the text. In this process teacher plays the song three times with extra speaker. Firstly, the teacher plays it without pauses, secondly with pauses and the last without pauses.
Post-Listening	The teacher gives students the last activity where she asks students to answer some questions related to creative writing.

Then on the previous study which entitled improving students' listening skill by using English song. The result of this research showed that there was an improvement of students listening skill after using the song in the listening class. Training sessions were given to the experimental group once a week. Meanwhile, in the control group teacher followed the traditional listening curriculum. For both groups were given the same pretest, posttest and instruction. Then, after conducting the treatments, by the end of the semester the experimental and control groups were tested again to evaluate the progress. In this study, the researcher planned the steps for the class, such as pre-test, treatments for cycle 1 and cycle 2, and the last is a post-test. The teacher gave treatment for both of the groups. The activities are show in [Table 3](#).

Table 3. Step of Improving Students' Listening Skill by Using English Song

Stages	Activities
Pre-Listening	The teacher does brainstorm activity in order to motivate students. In this process, the teacher can ask some questions to students and explain about the procedure of the learning process.
While-Listening	The teacher does some actions in the listening process. For example, students have to listen to the song given, discuss about the element of the song like the vocabulary use, synonym and antonym of the words and also answer some questions from the teacher.
Post-Listening	The teacher prepares the last activity such as giving students some questions. Then, evaluates the students by giving them a test. In this process, the teacher can play the song one more time to close the learning process.

Base on [Table 3](#) show the results of this study showed that the use of song can improve the listening skill of the second-year students at SMA Muhammadiyah. The use of song in improving students' listening skill does have many benefits for learning such as to make the process more attractive. It means the use of English song has a significant effect on students' listening skill. This song media can help students in the listening class. From this positive result, there was the steps description that had done by the researcher, as show in [Table 4](#).

Table 4. Steps Description That Had Done by The Researcher

Steps Description	Action
Explaining the learning material	The teacher tells about the learning material, the purpose of the study and also the learning goal.
Brainstorming activity	The teacher gives students an activity that can trigger their interest in the learning process. For example, teacher asks students about their favorite song or artist.
Introducing the song used	The teacher introduces the song that will be played. In this process, the teacher asks students to pay attention to the lyric of the song. The teacher chooses several songs in this activity.
Asking students some questions by giving some tasks	Before reaching this stage, the teacher prepares some tasks for the students. After that, students are asked to answer the questions given, for example, completing the blank lyric, mention the verb, adjectives and noun in the lyrics, and filling in the blank task.
Making conclusion of the learning material	The teacher asks students to make a conclusion of the learning process. After that, the teacher will confirm students' understanding by giving some feedbacks.
Closing	For the last step, the teacher closes the class

Based on [Table 4](#) show all of the results of previous studies, all of them showed positive results in improving students' listening skill.

Discussion

Using song in listening class is one of the strategies that can be used to improve listening skill. A song is an appropriate medium because it can make students enjoy the learning process and can provide some strength to improve the other skill. There are some strengths of using song in listening class such as (1) teaching listening; a song is used for practice in listening class. (2) teaching grammar and vocabulary of the song, a teacher can teach the used of tenses and vocabulary in the song. (3) practicing the intonation and stress patterns, students can practice the intonation and stress of the words. (4) teaching speaking, students and teacher can discuss the meaning of the song or discuss the lyric, and also (5) developing students' writing skill, students can make a summary of the song or make a short story of the main character ([Lestary & Seriadi, 2019](#)). Moreover, in the implementation of song to improve listening comprehension there are some benefits such as using a song in classroom can bring a variety of activities, can create an informal situation in class, can reduce anxiety because students feel happy and so on. Because of those benefits, a song can be motivation for students to learn the target language ([Basri & Lingga, 2019](#)).

Those strengths and benefits of using song can be obtained if the implementation is done properly. There are four elements that must be considered when teachers choose the song for the listening class such as (1) the environment of the class. The environment is one of the important criteria because it is related to the age, number and lesson hours of students. (2) Classroom facility, equipment facilities are very decisive in the successful implementation of song in the classroom. (3) Teacher age, teachers' age and their interest in music will affect the selection of song and (4) music, this is related to the source of the music, board, volume and so on ([Fernandez et al., 2017](#)). Hence, to make the strategies running properly, all of those criteria must be considered carefully.

It is in line with research that conducted on the use of song in improving students listening comprehension ability ([Lestary & Seriadi, 2019](#)). That stated there was an

improvement after implementing song in the listening class. The students became active and could do the listening task well. At the previous time, there are conducted a research on the use of song to improve listening comprehension of young learners (Ali, A., 2020). In this research, the materials given were implemented once in a week for about fifty minutes for each meeting. Overall, the meeting schedule is from October to December. Ali stated that the use of the song made students enjoyed the learning process through listening. Besides, by using song could help students in developing their listening skill. The implication of this research is to provide information and references for teachers in applying song in improving students' listening skills at various levels of education from childhood to adulthood. While the limitation of this research is only to examine the literature study related to the steps of the application of Song in Improving Students' Listening Skill. So it is hoped that further research will be able to present a more in-depth analysis by paying attention to other factors in the application of song in Improving Students' Listening Skills.

4. CONCLUSION

Listening is one of the skills that must be mastered. It is because listening is the first stage to learn something new. To make the listening process more enjoyable there are some strategies that can be used in improving students' listening skill, one of them is using songs. Using song as a medium in listening class can build a positive atmosphere in the process. The use of song in improving students' listening skill is appropriate. Therefore, conducting song in a classroom can make a variety of the activities. It can also make students relax and reduce the anxiety. Moreover, there are the steps in implementing song such as prepare the lesson plan and appropriate song for the pre-listening, prepare the tasks for main activities, give time to practice, check students' understanding and evaluate the result by giving feedback. Also, this listening skill can help in improving the other skills and can expand vocabulary bank.

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