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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Problems

There are four skill in English to be mastered for students, they are speaking, reading, writing and listeing. But one of the most significant role is istening skill, listening has a considerable impact to develope students language in listening. According to Hasan (2000, p.137-153.) there are several difficulties that learners probably encounter in listening comprehension processes such unfamiliar words, difficult grammatical structures, and the length of the spoken text are the most important factors for listening problems.

In the listening learning process. This indicates the importance of listening as a skill that participants must master for all forms of the TOEFL exam. Even though some participants had difficulty interpreting what the resource person had said, they were still enthusiastic about taking part in this training and always tried to focus on what the resource person had said. When asked by the resource person what difficulties they usually experience in working on listening questions, some said the most difficult part was when listening to different dialects, pronunciation that reached the grammar too quickly. Occasionally, when participants feel bored and tired, the resource person invites participants to stand for a moment and stretch the muscles that are already stiff and the participants smile again and are enthusiastic again to take part in the training. The resource person for session two not only honed participants' listening skills

but also honed participants' reading skills by asking participants to read several texts in the practice examples. Those are the basic skills which are taught to and learnt by students. Listening is one of receptive skills which has a very important role in learning English because listening is the language of modality which is mostly used in every conversation or activity. Hamouda (2013, p.113-155) said that listening skill is very important in acquiring understandable input. Learning does not occur if there will not be any input.

Students can deny that listening is the important skill that has been mastered for students English major, because that listening is the key to acquire a language is to receive language input. Rost (as cited in Vandergrift, 2011) has defined listening as a process of receiving what the speaker actually says, constructing and representing meaning, negotiating meaning with the speaker and responding, and creating meaning through involvement, imagination and empathy.

Listening has several aspects. Tyagi (2013,p.12) states that there are six aspects of listening, which are the definition of listening, variety of listening, value and function of listening in life, listening difficulties, and listening strategies. The definition of listening is varied. In everyday communication, it is essential to apply comprehension listening because the inability to distinguish one word from another leads to ineffective communication. In a basic conversation, both sides need to be a good listener, so there is no room for misunderstanding. For example, the words "to pray" can be mistaken as "two prey," which has an entirely different meaning and context may lead to a different understanding. That is why a good listener needs to be

able to distinguish them based on their knowledge of grammar and semantics. Listening comprehension is one of the essential skills yet less considered to be a priority in the English teaching and learning process. Richards and Renandya (2002, p.14) state that most English teachers disregard listening. They consider listening as a soft skill that can be obtained outside the school and not to be officially taught by the teacher. Other skill such as writing, speaking, and reading has always been the most focused skill throughout the ages.

Researcher conducted pre-observation on January 11, 2023 in Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University. Most students of the English Education Study Program at Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University still encounter many problems in listening comprehension. From the third semester, students are expected to reach a specific score in their course but only six students who were able to reach the required score. The students may find difficulties in the listening test section, whether from the unclear sounds from the audio, the speed and the dialect of the speaker or from external causes such as the noises that disturb the concentration. From the case of English Education Study Program students, can be seen that listening difficulties are something that cannot be regarded as an easy matter.

Therefore, finding out the difficulties and the causes of the difficulties in listening comprehension become the purpose of this study. This study not only focuses on finding out the difficulties in listening comprehension but also to find out whether there is any significant association between the difficulties in listening comprehension and the causes. Learning about listening comprehension difficulties not only help the students to improve their listening

skill but other skills as well because every skill in English has a connection with one another. They should overcome their difficulties and find out the causes so it cannot be a hindrance for them in the future. This study also aims to encourage further study about listening comprehension difficulties.

Actually, there are many previous researchers who have done the research about listening comprehension based on their strategy. Ahsaniah (2012) difficulties in learning listening comprehension in 11th grade, conducted the research at MAN Negara in Bali. Her result of research reported that the students were lack of vocabulary, so they had difficulty to understand the recording in listening section. The result of the research shown that students' difficulties in learning listening at the eleventh grade of MAN academic year 2011/2012 are the students had difficulty to discriminate voiced and voiceless and minimal pair sounds in phoneme discrimination test, they were also lack of vocabulary. Thus, they had difficulty to understand short dialogue by answering multiple choice items. The students did not understand the grammar that used in the text and they had common mistakes in spelling in filling in the blank question.

A study of Ramadhianti, A., Somba, S (2021) The effectiveness of the project based learning learning model, on the difficulty of listening comprehension of Indonesian EFL students with the participation of 85 students in the basic listening class of the Indraplata University PGRI English Education Program. As a result, the most listening problems faced by EFL students are the speaker's speaking speed, the various accents used by the speaker, and the long description of the listening text. Several strategies need to be developed to

identify these barriers to the listening process. In listening exercises, the instructor must be aware of the student's problems.

Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher very interested to know what are the difficulties of students in listening skill in listening comprehension students of English education of Muhammadiyah University of Kotabumi and there still few who discuss the learning listening skill. In addition, Therefore, the researcher discussed the learning in listening skill at the tertiary level, so that there will more references and wider coverage. This research will discuss what the difficulties in listening skill in listening comprehension. above, the researcher conducts the research with the title “An investigation of difficulties in listening skill listening comprehension at the third semester students at Muhammadiyah University of Kotabumi Academic Year 2022/2023”

1.2 Focus of the Research

Based on the background of the problem above, the researcher focuses on the investigation of Students' Difficulties in Learning Listening Comprehension at the Third Semester Students Of Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the focus of the problems above, the researcher formulates the question below:

1. What are the difficulties in Learning Listening Comprehension at the Third Semester Students of Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023. ?
2. What is the dominant difficulties in Learning Listening Comprehension at the Third Semester Students of Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023. ?

1.4 Objectives of the Problem

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objective of this study to.

1. Describe the difficulties in Learning Listening Comprehension at the Third Semester Students of Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023.
2. Describe one the dominant difficulties Learning Listening Comprehension at the Third Semester Students of Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023.

1.5 The Uses of Research

There searcher expects this research will have benefits and can be usefull for both theoretically and practically. The explanation of the uses of there search as the following:

1.Theoretically

This result of this research is expected to support and strengthen the previous theories, and then researcher's hope from the result of this research, the researcher can find out the new theory especially about an the investigation of

listening difficulties in listening comprehension of English Education study program at Muhammadiyah University of Kotabumi.

2. Practically

Practically, these researchers hope this research will be use full for:

a. Lectures

This research results also hope can give information to the lecturer about an investigation of listening difficulties in listening comprehension of English Education study program at Muhammadiyah University of Kotabumi.

b. Students

This research is hoped to give more information to students about listening comprehension. So, the students can manage themselves well, and minimize they mistake of listening skill.

c. Next Researchers

This research can be used as a reference for other researchers who want to conduct the research with the similar problem especially about the investigation of students difficulties In learning listening comprehension at the third semester students of Muhammadiyah Kotabumi University Academic Year 2022/2023.