

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter explains the introduction of the study which consists of several sections. The first is basic consideration which explains why this study needs to be conducted. The second is research question which contains the problem that will be investigated. The third is objective of study which describes the purpose of this research and as the answer of research question. The fourth is significances of the study which describes all the benefits of this research to the reader especially students and lecturers in English Department. The fifth is reason for choosing the topic which shows several causes why the researcher took the research, and the last is scope and delimitation of the study.

Basic Consideration

Listening ability is very important in communication and also in teaching and learning process. Feyten (1991) stated that listening has emerged as an important component in the process of second language acquisition. Listening as actives process skill because there are generalizing, predicting, hypothesizing, checking, and revising process in listening skill itself.

It is known that English in Indonesia just as a foreign language, so it is predictable that it is difficult for students to master the four skills in English like reading, writing, speaking and especially for listening fluently. It means that English is nor the first or the second language of the people who live in this country and other countries, such as Italy, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Indonesia (Gebhard, as cited in Polontalo, 2010). Exactly, since in elementary school, Indonesian's students learn English as a foreign language, but in fact there are several aspects why are students can not apply the four skills in English fluently in their daily activity. For instance, the data proof that, so one of the solutions to improve students' ability in listening is using a media. And the specific media here is language laboratory.

In addition, language laboratory is chiefly used in schools, and universities. The definition of language laboratory is a place to help students when they are learning English as their foreign language. Language laboratory also complete with all of the facilities, such as tape recorders, videocassette recorders, or computers connected to monitor devices enabling the instructor to listen and speak to the students individually or as a group, because this room special designed for learning foreign languages especially in listening skill.

Fortunately, nowadays in Indonesia there are many schools and universities were using language laboratory in teaching and learning English as a foreign language. But, in fact there is no standard of language laboratory itself. So, the researcher presume it is one of the reason why Indonesians' students can not apply the four skills in English fluently especially in listening. However, there is one question remain, what students' perceptions on the using of language laboratory in listening subject are.

Based on the researcher's experience as a student at English Education Department, as an observer when conducted mini research for assignment in previous semester about listening, and as the researcher on the preliminary investigation in the language laboratory of letters and culture faculty in English Education Department, it was found that it is difficult for many students of English Education Department in learning process of listening even they were using language laboratory. One of the reason is because of the condition of language laboratory that could not support the teaching and learning process in listening subject.

This problem is faced by most students at English Education Department in Letters and Culture Faculty at State University of Gorontalo. So, the researcher considers that this case is an important and a serious problem because it is related to English Education Department's credibility which will effect the using of language laboratory in listening subject.

This study gives the information about the real condition of English Education Department especially about students' perception on the using of language laboratory in

listening subject. Therefore, this study give much important information to all stakeholders at English Education Department in knowing students' perceptions on the using of language laboratory in listening subject and this research give some feedbacks in teaching and learning English especially for maximizing the using of language laboratory for students in listening subject.

Research Question

Based on the basic consideration that was stated previously, the problem statement to be analyzed in this research is *what are the students' perceptions on the using of language laboratory in listening subject?*

Objective of Study

To answer the research questions, the objective in doing this research is to find out students' perception on the using of language laboratory in listening subject.

Significances of Study

The significances of this study are the result of this research that would be useful as scientific information related to students' perception on the using of language laboratory in listening subject, not only for information but also the other points; first, Head of English Education Department and Head of language laboratory in English Education Department. It helps them to evaluate and maximize the use of language laboratory based on the result of this research which is consists of students' perception on the using of language laboratory in listening subject. Second, for the lecturers especially who teach English skill like reading, writing, speaking and specially for listening know how to maximize the use of language laboratory based on students' perception about language laboratory itself. Finally, for the students it can help them to be aware about their own perceptions about language laboratory.

Reasons for Choosing the Topic

The reasons for choosing this topic are:

Students' ability in listening is the most complex ability of developing language mastery itself. And then it is known that usually students learn listening in language laboratory.

Therefore, the researcher would like to find out about students' perceptions on the using of language laboratory in listening subject.

Language laboratory may be regarded as the suitable media to be used in teaching and learning process in listening subject. But, few investigations discusses about students' perception on the using of language laboratory in listening subject. So, it is an important reason for choosing the topic to be investigated.

Scope and Delimitation of Study

The scope and delimitation of this research focused on students' perception on the using of language laboratory in listening subject. Besides, the researcher possible to grow and increase the respond of participants according to the respond of participants themselves.