

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter presents the study which consists of the background of study concern with a brief outline of student's perception on the use of podcasts as media for learning listening comprehension. Besides that, this chapter also provides research questions, objectives of the research, and the scope of research.

Background of Study

Now we live in an age of technology, from young children to adults and even the elderly using technology. Especially for students, when students at this time used internet technology for chatting, computer games, cell phone games, mp3 players, and to find various information. Then, the researcher thought about turning it to the world of education especially in listening subjects.

In the listening subjects, the researcher found that many students still lacked understanding of listening. In fact, listening comprehension has its own difficulty level, many students are difficult to hear sentences spoken by native speakers, and many students dislike the listening subjects. The students can hear the sentence, but fail to write what they hear. Some of them even failed to find the main ideas, supporting ideas, or details of the recording. Sometimes, the materials that the teachers made are not familiar to the students. The students may lack background knowledge about foreign countries and cultures. As the result, sometimes the students cannot understand the material or the students misunderstand the meaning of it.

Therefore, the researcher wants to conduct research on this matter. Listening will also greatly enhance students in improving other abilities such as

completing the TOEFL, helping in learning pronunciation, and also improving vocabulary. For that, we need a portable listening tool that students can use easily anywhere and anytime. The researcher called it a podcast. A podcast can help the learners to understand the content and to improve their proficiency. According to Robinson (2009), podcasts consist of two words, Pod, which means iPod, which is another name for the popular MP3 player, and cast which is from word broadcasting. So, a podcast is an audio or video file that can be downloaded freely to a computer or mobile phone and listened to through portable playback that supports MP3 files itself.

The advent of the podcast on the internet can provide many information especially knowledge in listening. Kavaliauskienė (2008) stated that the opportunity to use podcasts can help students to do the homework or assignments at their own pace. Therefore, a podcast is a very good media in teaching English, especially in listening skills because podcast provides much knowledge to help student's comprehension.

The researcher used podcasts because the listener can control what they hear. It also gives students the opportunity to use technology and students can also make their own podcasts as their learning material. Compared to audio media, students really need full concentration on what they hear because the native speakers deliver material quickly that can cause difficulties in understanding the material. So, in the researcher's opinion podcasts can help students in listening comprehension because by using podcasts students can learn independently every time and everywhere.

The researcher needs to know more about the podcast from some of the previous studies, therefore some relevant studies had been found. The first is Ahmed's research in 2016 with the title "Using podcasts to improve listening comprehension in the Arabic Classroom". The research was conducted to investigate the use of podcasts to improve listening comprehension in children's Arabic classrooms. The researcher took nineteen students as samples from fourth and fifth graders. Then he compared the pre-test and post-test scores to examine the effect of the podcast on their listening comprehension. The researcher said that the scores from the experimental group were higher than the scores of the control group. The researcher indicated that podcasts are effective in improving listening comprehension in the Arabic classroom.

The second previous study is "Using podcast to improve students' comprehension on descriptive text" conducted by Prasetyo in 2014. The researcher said that the objective of her research to find out whether or not the use of podcasts significantly improved students listening comprehension on descriptive text. The researcher took the population of eighth-grade students of SMP N 10 Palembang in the academic year 2013/2014 and the sample of this research was 40 students. The researcher used the population single technique, then applied her research with pre-experimental which was one pre-test and post-test design. The researcher collected the data using a listening test. As the result, the paired sample t-test showed that the mean difference between students' pre-test and post-test was 22.57 with a significance value was .000. The researcher finally concluded that the result showed

that teaching listening comprehension through podcast significantly increased students listening comprehension.

The third previous study is Wiyanah's study in 2015 with the title "Improving listening skill using podcast for English Department Students of Universitas PGRI Yogyakarta". The researcher said that the objective of her research is to identify some steps that are going to be implemented in teaching listening using podcast to improve the students' listening skill in English Department UPY and to describe the improvement of students listening ability using podcast in their learning. The researcher took the sample from the fourth-semester students of English Department University PGRI Yogyakarta. The researcher used quantitative and qualitative data. In the quantitative data, the researcher took the data from a test. Meanwhile qualitative data, the researcher took the data from the result of observation, interview, and questionnaire. Firstly, the researcher gave a pre-test. Then, at the end of the lesson, the researcher gave a post-test in order to know whether podcast can improve the students' skills in listening and the result. The researcher also analyzed using descriptive statistics to know the difference of scores before and after the cycle. It follows that the results of the pre-test, post-test I, and post-test II were significantly increased. Therefore, the researcher concluded that the podcasts were able to help them in developing their skill in listening to the native speakers' sound by knowing the correct pronunciation and they also felt happy in learning using podcast.

Darwis in 2016 also conducted a study about a podcast with the title “Students’ perceptions towards the use of podcast in learning English: A case study of the second-grade students at one high school in Bandung”. The researcher was employed to investigate the students’ perceptions towards the use of podcast in learning English. The researcher involved thirty-three students of the second grade in one high school in Bandung as participants and used questionnaires and interviews as the instruments to collect the data. After having the findings, the researcher said that the students had a positive attitude towards podcast. The researcher also said that most of the participants agreed that they like podcast because it helped them in learning English. The content and clear native pronunciation derived from podcast also engaged their interest and made learning more exciting. However, the researcher found that some problems faced by students in using podcast. The main problem that the students encountered was the length of the podcast which was too long. Nevertheless, the researcher suggested that podcast can be a good media in improving students’ English skills.

From the four previous studies above, the researcher found that the objectives of the researches are different. The researcher also found that there were two studies that used pre-experimental methods, one study used quantitative and qualitative research, and another study used questionnaires and interviews as the instrument. These studies are already proved that using podcast can improve listening comprehension and improving students’ English skills.

Research Question

Since the emergence of podcasts in education, researchers want to know the students' perceptions of the use of podcast. Based on the basic consideration statement above, the problem statement in this research is:

“What are the students' perceptions on the use of podcast as media for learning listening comprehension?”

The Objective of Research

Teaching listening by using podcast can make students more interested and feel more relaxed during the teaching and learning process. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to find out students' perceptions on the use of podcast as media for learning listening comprehension. The result was seen from the outcome of the interview section with the students.

The Significance of Research

The significance of research is to know their perceptions about the use of podcasts as media for learning listening comprehension.

Scope of Study

By considering the use of podcast as media for listening comprehension, this research is focused on exploring students' perception on the use of podcast as media for learning listening comprehension. This research is conducted at English Department of Universitas Negeri Gorontalo. The participants of this research are students from class B in the third semester in the academic year 2019/2020 who enrolled in the listening subject.

Organization of the Research

This research consists of five chapters. In chapter one, there is the background of the study and the reason why the researcher conducted a study about student's perception on the use of podcast as media for learning listening comprehension. In this chapter, there is also the research question. Moreover, the research objective shows the aim that the researcher wants to achieve by doing this study, the scope of the research that shows the focus of the study, and the significances of the study where the researcher hopes this research can help the readers.

Chapter two reviews the related theories to the research that stimulated the research question of the study. It reviews some major aspects that focused on some areas such as listening comprehension, teaching listening comprehension, media in teaching English, the definition of podcast, podcast in education, listening using podcast, the advantages of podcast, podcast to improve listening comprehension, the procedure/ steps of using podcast and students' perceptions.

Chapter three described the research methodology that used in this study. It described the research method and the type of research, research participant, the technique of collecting the data, and the technique of analyzing the data.

Chapter four presents the results of the research in findings and discussion which intended to describe student's perception on the use of podcast as media for learning listening comprehension. Research findings intended to describe the result of the interview and research discussion to describe the mentioned findings.

Finally, Chapter Five presented a brief conclusion about student's perception on the use of podcast as media for learning listening comprehension, it is included the students' answers obtained from the interpretation of the data. This chapter also presents recommendations based on the findings and discussions.