



## THE IMPACT OF ENGLISH SONGS TO IMPROVE ON ENGLISH LISTENING SKILLS

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### Abstract

Songs have an impact that is either bad or good in language learning. The purpose of this study is to determine the impact of songs on language learning, especially in improving listening skills. The data were collected through questionnaires. In analyzing the collected data, a quantitative research method was employed. The study found that the use of songs can have a good impact and is likely to improve students' listening comprehension skills

**Keywords:** *Song, Listening, Impact, Improve*

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## INTRODUCTION

One of the most important aspects of life is language. People in general, cannot survive without language since they must interact with one another as social beings, and language improved communication. Learning a foreign language is important in addition to mastering one's mother tongue. In the current era of globalization, mastering foreign languages is one of the most important factors for Indonesia's younger generation to live and compete. One of them is mastery of English which is mostly used by young people, especially students as a way of communication. English, which is the main capital for communicating internationally, is a common need that must be fulfilled. In addition to communicating, young people must be fluent in English to prepare a generation of people who are ready to compete in the global market. Young people can learn English in a variety of ways, including formal and non-formal education, such as elementary school, courses, or extracurricular activities. It is often found that young people like to use English as their daily language when they are among them.

In the process of learning English there are four elements in it, namely: reading, speaking, writing, and listening; These elements must be learned to understand the language. Each of the four elements plays a key role in the existence of each. Therefore, if we have the basis of these four elements, we will be understood almost all over the world because English is the language of international communication in all fields, such as politics, science, media, arts, and entertainment. And for the first time, human activity is listening. Like a baby, he listens to the people talking around him. He listens to people communicating with each other. After listening carefully, he imitates what people are talking about, like bubbling. After that, he could speak well. Then he could read and write something.

Listening and reading are receptive skills because we don't need to produce language to do this. They accept and understand it. Then, from the four aspects above, one aspect that is difficult for young people to learn, especially students, is listening. Many students have difficulty understanding words or sentences spoken in English verbally. Generally, the listening learning method in schools is still relatively rigid by only providing exercises through conversation as in the TOEFL.

Listening is an important skill in language learning along to be fluent in a language, listening must be improved. It is one of the receptive skills and involves humans in capturing and understanding English input. Reading, another receptive skill involves humans in understanding and interpreting written words.

Listening is more difficult than reading because humans often recognize written words more easily than they recognize spoken words. Furthermore, when reading, humans can go back and reread a phrase whereas by

listening they only get one chance. By reading, the reader who determines the pace while listening to the speaker or recording determines the pace. Because of this problem, many young people especially students find it difficult to listen. People assume that if someone can speak well, it means that someone can communicate well. In social life, some people believe that if they learn English it can be seen in their ability to speak, write and read. In addition, a person's language ability is also determined by his listening ability.

Listening tasks can be very discouraging and demotivating, especially if students have had previous negative experiences. It is important to give students many opportunities to practice listening skills in a supportive environment that helps them to learn. To teach the listening process in a way that does not bore or demotivate learners, and one option is to listen to songs. Learners are encouraged by songs to listen to them repeatedly and emulate the pronunciation of their favorite singers (Suwartono, 2019). Songs are thought to be able to stimulate interest in learning and to be one of the less boring lessons for young people. Then there's music, which is one of the most exciting and culturally rich elements that may be utilized in education.

According to Murphey (1990), many English teachers have long recognized the value of song and music in language instruction. When a student listens to and memorizes an involved song in class, the lyrics are embedded in his long-term memory. Music is a powerful stimulus for humans since it relates to our emotions while also allowing us to interpret them and their effects by utilizing our minds if we so desire. A piece of music can transform the learning environment, be engaging, and provide a pleasant relationship between the worlds of enjoyment and learning in the classroom.

Song, a combination of music and lyrics, possesses many inherent characteristics, such as a kaleidoscope of culture, expressiveness, reliability, and therapeutic functions, which render it an important source for language training (Shen, 2009). Music and songs play a significant role in development and education. Songs have several important characteristics, including the ability to entertain and inspire young people. There are numerous benefits of using music to teach Listening Skills. Although songs are particularly memorable and encourage learners, it is possible to facilitate their understanding by using contemporary popular songs that are familiar to youth. Repetition is the most significant quality of a song since it helps you memorize the words.

The advantage of listening to songs commonly is that people learn new vocabulary and pronunciation while also relaxing. When someone listens to a song, the mood can change from happy to sad. It depends on what song people hear. People no longer find it difficult to listen to music in this modern generation. People can listen to music on their phones because they are convenient and portable. We can listen to music on our phones regardless of where we are or how much time we have.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

Qualitative research was applied to analyze the data for this study. To study and explain how the impact of songs on teenagers' language ability, qualitative data is employed. Participants' data were collected in their natural surroundings using a qualitative data instrument semi-structured interview. The participants in this study were young people between the ages of 15 - 25 years old, in sectors that required English language abilities. 2 persons who enjoy listening to music were given questionnaires by researchers. The questionnaire contains 5 statements as a data-gathering tool.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The results of the research questionnaires that have been conducted will be presented in this section. Participants consisted of 2 people consisting of students and employees aged around 18 - 22 years. The first question reads "Do you like listening to English songs? all respondents' answers stated that they like to listen to English songs. It is hereby stated that all respondents who filled out the questionnaire were people who liked English songs.

In the second question "What genre of music do you often listen to?" one of the respondents agreed to choose pop and make it a music genre that they often listen to, while one participant said that he likes all types of music genres. This question aims, that the author can find out the type of music that the participants like, humans tend to be more focused when listening to the type of music they like. Music is a uniquely human creation that has a very strong capacity to convey emotions and regulate emotions (Johansson, 2006).

"According to you, do English songs help you in improving your English Skills, especially in Listening Skills?" In this question, all participants stated that English songs can improve English skills, especially Listening Skills.

The fourth question contains "What do you think about English songs in improving English skills?" In this question, participants are asked to express their opinion. The result is that all participants are not much different from each other, all participants think that English songs help them improve their English skills, especially when pronouncing a word, and increasing vocabulary and they also mention that listening to songs and singing along

makes participants familiar with English. Participants also said that listening to songs made learning easier and more fun. Meanwhile, one participant stated that English songs improved English language skills but not at the conversational level.

In the last question, participants were asked to tell their experiences in using English songs to improve their listening skills. In general, participants' answers were not too different from the previous questions. Almost all participants said that by listening to songs, we can increase our vocabulary which can improve our Listening Skills. One participant said that he enjoyed listening to songs since Junior High School and since then his listening skills have improved. Then, another participant told that in every activity he did, he always used earphones to listen to music, while singing when relaxed while looking at the lyrics, he got used to not having to look at the lyrics and memorize them, from this memorization he could remember vocabulary so that when listening another song, he is not confused.

Listening is the ability to identify and understand what others are saying. For learners, listening is how spoken language becomes the first stage of learning a new language. Such as in the classroom, this happens by listening to the teacher, CD, or other learners. It is the process of interpreting the message that people say (Sarcoban, 1999). Listening is the receptive use of language, and since the goal is to make sense of the speech, the focus is on meaning rather than language (Cameron, 2001).

Songs provide many things that can strengthen students' memories such as sounds, poems, and melodies. That is, songs can increase functionality in learning, especially in English. Songs contain language patterns, along with skills in listening, pronunciation, and rhythm, as well as a pleasant atmosphere. Furthermore, the tune creates a peaceful atmosphere. Then, because many young people enjoy listening to music and have similar opinions about it, the song is a significant educational tool. Songs are an important tool in the effort to improve listening skills because of this connection to music.

Young people generally choose to listen to music on various platforms such as Spotify, Joox, Youtube Music, Apple Music, etc. Songs provide a wonderful opportunity for monotonous repetitive practice. This repetition becomes as enjoyable as chanting the chorus or a song where each verse takes words from the previous verse. This repetition helps to learn and makes music sound more familiar and comfortable to those who listen to them. Using songs as an aid to improve listening skills is a good impact, because songs, especially ones we like, can make us more enthusiastic and relaxed when listening to them.

In the research that has been carried out, it was found that there is a relationship between increasing vocabulary in listening ability, the more we know the vocabulary the more we know and understand the vocabulary when we hear it. Songs, as a blend of music and text, contain a plethora of qualities that deserve our attention. Their cultural and thematic diversity, idiomatic and poetic expressions, therapeutic qualities, etc make them an ideal language education instrument. As a result, using songs in the classroom can help us relax our minds and bodies while also making listening more fun.

## **CONCLUSION**

The findings of this study focused on the impact of English songs on listening. Discovered that listening to English songs can assist students to improve their listening abilities while also learning new vocabulary. As a result, singing a song made it easier for them to remember how to pronounce words. The goal of this study was to see how much English songs can help English students improve their listening skills. According to the findings, the song has a positive impact on linguistic skills, particularly listening ability.

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