

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Problem

English has important value that cannot be ignored since English is the most widely spoken language in the world. English is generally accepted as the global language of communication, despite the fact that Mandarin and Spanish speakers outnumber English speakers around the world.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, English as a Lingua Franca means that many people from various backgrounds communicated in English.<sup>2</sup> Also, English understanding would help intercultural communication and mitigate misunderstanding. However, to understand conversations in English with English speakers, it is necessary to have good listening skills as well.

Listening is one of the constituents in English and become the most essential skill. Since it is considered one of the preconditions of oral output in the language learning process, listening skills have become a major concern for language teaching. Listening skill is crucial in language learning because it provides learners with guidance and aids in the improvement of their language skill.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, listening skill can boost non-English speaker's self-confidence so they are encouraged to participate in conversations with native speakers.

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<sup>1</sup> Parupalli Srinivas Rao, "The importance of English in the modern era". Asian Journal of Multidimensional Research (AJMR). Vol. 8 No. 1, 2019, p. 7. <https://doi.org/10.5958/2278-4853.2019.00001.6>

<sup>2</sup> Jennifer Jenkins, "English as a lingua franca: Interpretations and attitudes". World Englishes, Vol. 28 No. 2, p. 203. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-971X.2009.01582.x>

<sup>3</sup> Ross, *Introducing listening*, (London: Pinguin Books), p. 61.

Therefore, listening skills are very important to teach because they can increase the level of self-confidence of learners and become a crucial factor in the improvement of their language skills.

However, the listening skills possessed by high school students in Indonesia are still lacking. While listening is an important language skill, it is often overlooked by foreign and second language teachers so that there are still many learners who lack listening skills.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, high school students face a number of challenges when it comes to listening lessons, including insufficient learning time, supporting facilities in school, limited vocabulary mastery, and paralinguistics features.<sup>5</sup> Another factors that students might face are speed of speech that is too fast by the speaker, student's concentration level, many of them not familiar on English speaking environment, and lack of motivation. Therefore, teachers must have interesting media in order to provide interactive listening learning for students.

Learners can find it difficult to master the skill of listening comprehension, necessitating the need for teachers to modify their listening exercises to make them more successful.<sup>6</sup> Good teaching media will boost students' interest and inspire them to engage in listening learning progress.

Also, authentic listening media and materials are important for learning

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<sup>4</sup> Graham, "Language Learning Strategies: What Every Teacher Should Know". TESOL Quarterly. Vol. 27 No. 1, 1993, p. 7. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3586958>

<sup>5</sup> Raihan Maulida, Thesis: "An analysis of students' difficulties in learning listening" (Banda Aceh: Ar-Rainiry State Islamic University, 2018), p. 31.

<sup>6</sup> Tomo Kurita, "Issues in second language listening comprehension and the pedagogical implications". Accents Asia. Vol. 5 No. 1, 2012, p. 36. <http://accentsasia.org/5-1/kurita.pdf>

listening progress since students learn many things such as suprasegmental segments of language, namely intonation and emphasis. As a result, those kinds of media are supposed to aid students in grasping the gist of knowledge needed for their listening ability. Therefore, from the various available listening learning media, there are two listening learning media that can be used to improve students' listening skills, namely podcast and song.

Basically, podcast and song have their respective advantages. Podcast encourages students to use their teach based environment framework for educational purposes, allowing them to step away from conventional face-to-face instruction without jeopardizing the relationship between students and teachers.<sup>7</sup> The following are some of the benefits of using podcast: (1) it improves student motivation, (2) it aids in the teaching of large groups, (3) it can be used to teach students with mixed skill, and (4) it emphasizes on precision.<sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, students can also improve their communication skills by listening to songs. Song is widely regarded as the most effective medium for expressing sadness, happiness, and depression. When people express themselves through music, their minds are relaxed, allowing them to learn more actively. Moreover, songs can be beneficial tools in the classroom, and a teacher can use them during linguistic practice.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, songs can also inspire students and create a supportive environment, since most young

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<sup>7</sup> Dianithi, "The use of podcast to improve students' speaking competency of tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 1 Amlapura in academic year 2015/2016". *Journal of Education Action Research*. Vol. 1 No. 1, 2017, p. 40. <https://doi.org/10.23887/ls.v23i2.16073>

<sup>8</sup> Paul Man. "Developing students' listening and speaking skills through ELT podcast". *Education Journal Winter*. Vol. 34 No. 2, 2017.

<sup>9</sup> Kuśnierek, "The role of music and songs in teaching English vocabulary to students". *World Scientific News*. Vol. 43 No. 24, 2016, p.13

people nowadays are involved in a diverse variety of cultural types outside of the classroom.<sup>10</sup> Not only that, song can be used to calm students because learning a foreign language is a new experience for many people, and how it sounds can convey attitudes and values.

A study conducted by Puspita et al. in 2014 using first grade students in SMP Negeri 26 Bandar Lampung with the title “A Comparative Study of Students' Listening Comprehension Taught Through Video and Audio” shows that teaching listening with video is more successful than teaching them with audio in terms of improving their listening comprehension.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, a study conducted by Rahmatian & Armiun in using 44 adults learners who are M.A. students of French language at Tarbiat Modares and Azad universities with the title “The Effectiveness of Audio and Video Documents in Developing Listening Comprehension Skill in a Foreign Language” shows that video documents are preferable for practicing listening comprehension in language classes but audio documents should not be ruled out entirely.<sup>12</sup>

However, to the researcher's knowledge, there are still very few research publications that discuss about comparison between podcast and song as a media for learning listening skill especially at the high school level

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<sup>10</sup> Jeng-Jia Luo, “Using popular culture to promote learning in EFL classrooms: A case study”. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Vol. 112, 2014, p. 211. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.01.1157>

<sup>11</sup> Logi Bellamari Puspita et al., “A comparatives study of students' listening comprehension taught through video and audio”. *UNILA Journal of English Teaching*. Vol. 3 No. 8, 2014, p. 6.

<sup>12</sup> Rouhollah Rahmatian and Novid Armiun, “The effectiveness of audio and video documents in developing listening comprehension skill in a foreign language”. *International Journal of English Linguistics*. Vol. 1 No. 1, 2011, p. 4. <https://doi.org/10.5539/ijel.v1n1p115>

or at the Madrasah Aliyah level. Therefore, in this study, the researcher is interested in conducting a comparative study between podcast and song to find out which media is the most effective in providing listening skills progress at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 1 Medan.

## **B. Research Question**

Based on the background of problem, the following research question will be addressed in this study:

1. What is the most effective media between podcast and song that can be used to improve students' listening skill progress at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 1 Medan?

## **C. Purpose of Research**

The purpose of research is:

1. To find out the most effective media between podcast and song that can be used to improve students' listening skill progress at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 1 Medan?

## **D. Benefits of Research**

The benefits of research that will be obtained from this research are as follows:

1. This study can provide teachers with the most effective media to use in the teaching and learning process that affects the student's listening skill progress.

2. This research can provide readers with knowledge and information about podcast and videos on the listening skill progress.
3. For other researchers, this research can be the basis for starting future research in the same field.

