

IMPROVING STUDENTS' LISTENING ABILITY THROUGH ENGLISH SONG AT A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

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Abstract

This paper aims at discussing about improving students' listening Ability through English song at a junior high school. When students feel bore in teaching listening process, absolutely teacher should give an attractive and interest media to them. One of the media that can be used by the teacher in teaching learning process, especially in listening process is English song. English song is an easy media to improve students' listening ability, especially students at a Junior high school. It is purpose to attract and grow student's motivation in learning and mastery English, especially in teaching learning listening skill. There are three activities in procedures of teaching listening through English song, they are: Pre- listening activity, Whilst- Listening activities and Post- listening activity.

Keywords: *Teaching Listening, , English Song, Students' Ability.*

A. INTRODUCTION

English is very important to be mastered by everyone since English is often used as a means of international communication. It is widely used in every kind of activities all over the world. In Indonesia, it is one of the foreign languages that is taught at schools as a compulsory subject for junior high school, senior high school, and also at university.

In Competency Based Curriculum, teaching English is based on the four basic

skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Listening is very essential, and it is a functional tool for communicating and gathering information. Since listening as the basic skill for learning language, it is very useful. It is difficult to answer someone's question if we cannot hear well. We need to comprehend what other people say in English in order to achieve the goal of good and successful communication.

As a foreign language taught in Indonesia, based on the writer's observation in the classroom, students find many

problems. They hear and enjoy the English song, but they do not know the meaning and the spelling of the words. They do not understand what their teacher says although they listen well and give attention to their teacher. So they do nothing because they do not comprehend their teacher's explanation and instruction.

To solve the problem, according to Underwood (1989: 15), there are several ways of improving students' listening ability such as: listening to the news, listening to the stories, listening to the music and song in English. Harmer (2002: 228) states that improving students listening skills is important since it helps students to gain many valuable language inputs.

It is found that students have lack of ability in listening. There are two factors causing the students have lack ability in listening. The first is a large size of class. The second is lack of equipment available teaching materials. In this case, the writer intends to focus on how to improve the students' ability in listening through song at junior high school, especially English pop songs by using question and answer and fill in the blank.

1. Definition of Listening

Listening is one of the four basic language skills. There are some experts have discussed about listening. Schäfer (2010: 31) states that listening comprehension in a foreign language is highly important in order to develop a natural feeling for using that language. We, as future teachers of the English language, want to provide concrete teaching examples that enable the students to enhance this listening comprehension. Furthermore, Celik (1999:1) adds that it is important to recognize the language components such as stressed syllables, tonic stress in an utterance, and tones.

Based on the previous information, it is important to recognize all of the language components that are required to understand the message. It is a fact that students face those language components when they are exposed to real and non-real contexts.

Based on some experts' views discussed above it is understood that listening is an activity process of constructing meaning from a stream of sounds to get meaning that is exchanged between listener and speaker.

2. Definition of Song

Song is a kind of entertainment. It can be done with or without music instrument, just by clapping hands. A song is short musical composition. It is typically for a solo singer, through may also be a duet, trio, or more voices (Wikipedia, 2013). Song is the joint art of words and music. Song is

musical composition usually song by a Solo voice. It may be performed with or without accompaniment. Most songs have a simple lyrical style. Songs are the oldest musical form and have been found in all cultures.

3. Teaching Listening Through Song

Some teachers think that listening is the easiest skill, whereas most of the students think it is the most difficult to improve. These fact, tell us that there is something about teaching listening that needs to be explored. Richards (2008: 3) says that there are comprehension problems encourage by learners in listening.

They are as follow:

- Spoken discourse, it usually happens instantaneous. Therefore, the listeners must process it directly and there is often no chance to listen it again.
- Spoken discourse, it strikes the second language listeners as being very fast. Spoken text may be spoken with many different accents.

B. PROCEDURE OF IMPROVING LISTENING THROUGH ENGLISH SONG

1. Preparation

In teaching listening there are some ways and materials that can be prepared by the teacher. Before continuing this activity,

the teacher has to prepare something related to the material. They are:

- The audio tapes and cassette recorders, which play the song.
- The task sheet has a question and to fill in the blank.

Procedure of Teaching Listening through English Song

Pre-listening activities

Pre-listening activities are the first procedure. In here the students are asked to do a kind of warning-up exercise.

- Teacher introduces the title of the song

Example

Teacher : “Hello student. How are you?”

Student : “ I’m fine. Thank you”

Teacher : “Well class. Today we will listen a song . The title is I have a dream by Westlife. Did you hear before ?”

- Teacher asks students to predict the words likely to be appeared in this song
- Teacher writes the words that students predict on the board E.g. *fantasy, believe, dream, etc*

Whilst-listening activities

Whilst-listening activities are the second procedure or step in teaching

listening through song. This procedure is song presentation.

- Teacher distributes the song's text with some word missing.
- Teacher asks students to fill in the blanks while listening to the song.
- Teacher asks students to listen to it carefully
- Teacher plays the song on the tape

Teacher asks them to compare with prediction in pre-listening whether the predicted words used in the song.

- To check it, teacher plays the song one more time.
- The teacher collects their work and discuss it together or students can do peer's discussion to check their answers together.
- Teacher checks the students' work
- Teacher asks the students to make the right song's transcript or to fill in the blanks
- Teacher gives the time for them to finish the exercise
- Teacher points one of students to write it on the board.

Post-Listening Activities

The third procedure of teaching listening through song is post-listening activities. There are some activities that can be done by teacher:

1. Testing the comprehension

- Teacher plays the song for the last time
- Teacher asks the students to listen to it more seriously
- Teacher asks the students to answer the questions in order to test their comprehension about song.
- Teacher gives the time for the students to answer the questions.
- Teacher checks the student's answer together

Teaching Pronunciation

Teacher explains about how to pronounce word by word with clearly and fluency.

Wonder/ wʌndə(r)/

Dream/ drēm/

Destination/ destɪneɪʃ(ə)n/

Teaching Vocabularies

Teacher can explain about several difficult words in the song lyric. Its purpose to enrich and acquisition vocabulary of the students.

Dream- mimpi

Believe- percaya

Angels- malaikat

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGESSTIONS

Conclusions

Listening is essential. It is not only effective communication, but it is also effective in learning language. One way to

make teaching listening to be more communicative is by using the song such as English song. English song can be used to increase the students' ability in listening because the students will be familiar with the words English within the lyric of the song.

The procedure of English song that the writer has explained previously, we can motivate students' interest and improve their ability in listening skill. The students' listening skills like pronunciation, spelling, grammar, and vocabulary will improve because of song. The procedure is not only having one activity, but it has many various activities such as fill in the blank, question answer that can catch the student interest to study listening

Suggestions

Based on the conclusion above, there are several of points to be considered to determining and using English song in the teaching and learning listening skill activities. Therefore, the writer suggests that:

1. Teachers should creative in choosing suitable song for students related by their level and age.
2. The government must pay attention to help teachers in get use electronic equipments or utility in the school.

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