CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the background of the research, the statement of the problem, the objective of the research, the significance of the research, and the operational definition.

1.1 Background of the Research

In this era of globalization, English is one of the most important languages to be mastered by all people around the world. Almost 2 billion people, around 7.5 billion people, use English as their language of communication and 400 million of them use English as their first language and others as their second or foreign language (Rao, 2019).

Some essential English components must be grasped. They are listening skills, speaking skills, reading skills, writing skills, etc. However, this study will discuss listening skills. Listening is a key aspect of communication. Listening also has great importance in foreign language classrooms (Richards & Renadya, 2002). If someone has good listening skills, they will be able to understand the utterance to which they are listening, understand the speaker's saying, and respond to what they hear. Listening is one of the four basic English abilities that must be acquired, and it is one of the hardest for students to acquire because it is one of the most complicated talents. According to Myers (1992) listening is considered not only hearing, but also paying close attention, processing, comprehending, and evaluating the uttered messages, and possibly acting on what has been heard (Myers, 1992). Therefore, listening is one of the language skills whose role is extensive in teaching and learning activities.

According to Gilakjani & Ahmadi (2011), listening comprehension is a conscious and active process in which the listener generates meaning by employing cues from knowledge and contextual information from current knowledge, and relies on several strategic resources to accomplish task needs (Gilakjani & Ahmadi, 2011). In addition, (Hamouda, 2013) listening comprehension is the understanding of what the listener hears from the speaker. An ability of the listener to repeat the

speaker's text even though the listener can only repeat the sound without any understanding. It implies that the listener must comprehend what the speaker has spoken to him/her.

Listening is considered to be a difficult skill for Indonesian students including the students at SMKN 1 Kudus. During the teaching internship program, the researcher conducted observations at SMKN 1 Kudus. The researcher observed the tenth grade (Busana) and the result was that among the several classes that the researcher observed, there was a class that showed their listening comprehension ability was still under the other classes. It is because the students are not interested in listening class.

In this situation, educators must be able to use learning media that are suitable for use during listening lessons in the classroom. This is a challenge for teachers to adapt to the sophistication of technology to create a positive learning environment in order to increase students' interest in learning English. In this digital era, students are accustomed to the existence of smart phones. The students are more proficient in operating their smart phones than the parents.

Therefore, the researcher used Spotify App as a learning media to increase students' interest and ability in learning listening comprehension. Spotify is a digital music application that contains a lot of features that can be accessed such as music, podcasts, and streaming videos from artists or musicians in all parts of the world. Researchers used podcasts as learning media because the material on podcasts is interesting and can also stimulate critical thinking skills in students that will improve students' listening comprehension skills.

According to Alm (2013), Podcasts can open opportunities for language education, especially in improving students' English listening skills in foreign language classes so that using Podcast can help teachers and students achieve the goals of the learning process (Alm, 2013). Usually, students will be more interested in things related to audio podcast therefore students will be eagerly when asked to discuss an audio podcast as learning material. With this, students will be easily motivated to learn to improve listening comprehension skills. There are so many English podcast that teachers can use as media in learning. The use of podcast as

English learning media makes students not easily bored because the students can find can find interesting topics according to their favorites and interests and the process will be fun during learning. So, English podcast may be appealing to others.

Using podcast is an effective way to generate listening activities. Hasan and Hoon (2013) state that the main reason podcasts can be beneficial for students or foreign language speakers is because using podcasts can accelerate the learning of language learners because it is not only in listening but also covers other areas such as vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and other related areas (Hasan & Hoon, 2013). Podcasts allow students to learn when and where they want, at their own pace and on their own route. Furthermore, podcasts are simple to download, distribute, and even alter, giving learners greater control and ownership over their learning. Therefore, through this Spotify application, the activities and listening process become more effective and less boring in learning listening.

There are many ways that teachers can use in making lessons fun for students such as by utilizing the podcast feature on the Spotify application, which they can use anywhere and anytime, not necessarily in the classroom. This Spotify app is a digital music, podcast, and video streaming service that provides access to millions of musicians and songs around the world. By using this Spotify application, learning to listen will be more fun because students are free to choose English podcast that they like and students do not feel bored because of easy and efficient access using only a smart phone.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher conducted research with the title "The Effectiveness of Using Spotify to Teach Listening Comprehension at Tenth Grade Students' of SMKN 1 Kudus in Academic Year 2023/2024".

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above the researcher determines the statement of the research: "Is Spotify effective to teach listening comprehension to tenth grade students' of SMKN 1 Kudus in academic year 2023/2024?"

1.3 Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is to find out whether the use of Spotify is effective to be applied in teaching listening comprehension to tenth grade students' at SMKN 1 Kudus in the academic year 2023/2024.

1.4 Significance of the Research

By conducting this research, the researcher hopes that the result will be useful as below:

1. The Teacher

   The teachers in SMK Negeri 1 Kudus can benefit from this research. They can consider this research in choosing the right media in the teaching and learning process, especially to improve students' listening skills.

2. The Students

   Spotify application is a unique and very enjoyable way of learning. For students, it can be useful to improve listening skills, especially listening comprehension in learning English as a foreign language.

3. The Researcher

   The findings of this study can be useful for other researchers who are interested in the theme of listening comprehension which can be used as a research reference.

1.5 Operational Definition

Based on the focus of this research, the researcher divides the operational definition into two, there are:

1. Definition Spotify

   Spotify is a digital music, podcast, and video streaming service that provides listeners with access to millions of songs and other content from artists worldwide. Spotify apps include features such as digital music, podcasts, and video streaming (Andriani et al., 2018).

2. Listening Comprehension

   Listening comprehension is a process of understanding speech in either the first or second language. In second language learning, listening

comprehension focuses on the role of individual linguistic units (grammar, phenoms, words, and structures) as well as the role of listener expectations, topic, situation and context, and background knowledge

3. Effectiveness is a success in achieving goals that have been set with the expected output. If the results of the activity are closer to the goal, the higher the effectiveness, and vice versa.

4. The Tenth Grade Students of SMKN 1 Kudus are the 1st year students who are currently registered as students in academic year 2023/2024.