

**THE STUDENTS' PROBLEMS IN LISTENING COMPREHENSION
AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF IAIN
ZAWIYAH COT KALA LANGSA**

THESIS

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The Writer

Zulliana Nurbalinda

ABSTRACT

This thesis tried to find the answer about the difficulties faced by English Department students and how the way they solve the problems in Listening Comprehension. The researcher uses questionnaire and interview as the instruments to collect data. The population in this research are the fifth semester of English Department of tarbiyah faculty at IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa. To selecting the sample, the researcher uses cluster sampling which is only one unit choose as the sample. The total numbers of sampling are 19 students in unit 2. A questionnaire was used to determine what students' problems in listening comprehension, interview was used to know the way how they solve the problems about Listening Comprehension. Based on the analysis, the results of the study showed that, accent, pronunciation, speed of speech, insufficient vocabulary, different accent of speakers, lack of concentration, anxiety, and bad quality of recording were the major listening comprehension problems encountered by English Department students of Tarbiyah Faculty at IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa. To solve the problems in Listening the students doing several ways like memorize much vocabulary, listen the English songs, watch the western movies, learning about pronunciation, practiced to speak English, learning about grammar and discussed it with friends, focused and make themselves more confident to facing their anxiety.

Keywords: (Listening, Listening Comprehension, and Listening Problems).

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English is a compulsory subject in Indonesia. It is taught from elementary school up to university. It is intended to make the student's skillful in English especially for communicate which includes listening skill. According to Nunan it is well known that listening comprehension plays a key role in foreign language teaching.¹ Listening is a critical element in the competent language performance of ESL learners, whether they are communicating at school, at work, or community.

“Through a normal course of a day, listening is used nearly twice as much as speaking and four two five times as much as reading and writing.”² Among four language skills- listening, speaking, reading and writing, listening has been called the neglected skills for some decades. Listening skill has not been given proper attention of the teachers in teaching and learning English as a foreign language. Listening is one of the fundamental language skills. It is medium through which children, young people and adults gain a large portion of their education, information, understanding of the world and of humans' affairs, ideals, sense of values and appreciations. Listening is the most used skill since both children and adult spend approximately 45 percent of their communication time to

¹ David Nunan, *Second Language Teaching and Learning*, (Massachusset: Heinle and Heinle, 1999), p.200.

² Subekti, “*Foreign Language Learner*”, <http://www.enotes.com>, accessed on June 11th, 2015.

listening, only 30 percent to speaking, 16 percent to reading and a mere 9 percent to writing.³ In principle, the objective of listening comprehension practice in the classroom is to prepare students to understand actual speech and real life listening situation. Therefore, listeners must be able to understand actual speech to meet their own needs as members of the English speaking community.

Based on the writers' observation, the problems in learning listening are commonly faced by students. In addition, the problems are also caused by the lecturer's technique in teaching Listening Comprehension. The potential problems are: lack of control about the speed at the speaker speaks, inability to get thing repeated, the learner limited vocabulary, the failure to recognize the signals, problems of interpretation, the ability to concentrate or the established learning habits.

In teaching listening at IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa especially at the fifth semester, the students are expected to understand the material that is given by teachers. As compared with other language skill, listening is considered the most challenging subject. It is not easy to students of English Department learning Listening Comprehension. They found many problems and difficulties in listening. By doing this research, the researcher wants to get the answer of all their problems in Listening Comprehension and how do they solve their problems.

³ Subekti, "*Foreign Language Learner*"... p.2.

B. Research Question

The writer states some research questions as follows:

1. What the difficulties faced by English Department students of IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa in Listening Comprehension?
2. How do the English Department students of IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa solve their difficulties in Listening Comprehension?

C. The Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study are as follows:

1. To know the difficulties faced by English Department students of IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa in Listening Comprehension.
2. To know the way how the English Department students of IAIN Zawiyah Cot Kala Langsa solve their problems in listening comprehension.

D. The Significance of Study

The significance of the study divide into two aspect, there are:

1. Theoritically

This research is expected to be a guidance to solve the problems about Listening Comprehension.

2. Practically

The result of this research is expected to be a useful input for the lecturer to be aware their students' problems in Listening Comprehension and to

have a better understanding of their students' listening difficulties and examine their own teaching methods to improve students' listening comprehension.

Furthermore, the result of this research is also expected to be a useful input for the students to identify their difficulties of listening comprehension to ascertain what further learning strategies are necessary.

E. Terminology

In this thesis, there are some terms which need to be explained in order to avoid misunderstanding such as:

1. Problem

A matter or situation regarded as unwelcome or harmful and needing to be dealt with and overcome.⁴

2. Listening comprehension

Listening comprehension is a process that consists of five elements: hearing, attending, understanding, responding and remembering. Hearing is the psychological of listening that occurs when sound waves strike the ear at a certain frequency and loudness and it is influenced by background noise. Attending is the process of filtering out some messages and focusing on others. Understanding occurs when we make sense of message. Responding consists of giving observable feedback to the speaker such as eye contact

⁴ A S Hornby, Oxford Advanced learner's Dictionary, 5th ed., p. 1842.

and appropriate facial expression. Remembering is the ability to recall information.⁵

⁵ Gwen Nyhus, "*The Listening Strategy*", <http://www.bettercommunicationresult.com>, accessed on June 11th, 2015