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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Problem

Listening is an activity hearing about object specifically and full attention. Listening is one of the four skills, include Speaking, Reading, and Writing; that students should learn it. Listening is different from hearing. Hearing is an activity entry of sound into the ear, not necessarily paying attention, you must hear to listen, but you need not listen to hear. Because listening is more than hearing, it involves comprehending and thinking process.

However, Listening is an activity with concentration and focus to an object. Listening makes the brain process to understand words, sentences, and informations. In line with idea above Vendergrift & Goh (2012 p.33) said that Listening is a complex cognitive skill that must operate automatically for listeners to efficiently process what they hear. Listeners construct meaning by linking information from a listening text with knowledge stores in long-term memory, informed by their overall prior knowledge and life experiences.

In teaching-learning process of English, listening is the most important skills that students must master it. When someone learning in first language, the first thing that they should do is listening. Listening is the main component in learning language. Like babies, when they can't talk yet, all they do is listen and listen before they can finally speak. Regarding the important of listening with that



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result, Buck (2001 p.29) said that, listening is cognitive process and in reality the context is not external to the listener.

To learn listening skill, students must be able to comprehend it. Comprehension is the human ability in interpreting, translating, capturing meaning, understanding, concluding, and predicting something in its own way about the knowledge that has received in communication. Richards and Schmidt (2010 p.108) said that, Comprehension is the identification of intended meaning of written or spoken communication. In the active process describing both on information contained in the message as well as background knowledge, information from the context and from the listener's and speaker's purposes or intentions.

Richards and Schmidt (2010 p.344) stated that, Listening comprehension is the process of understanding speech in a first or second language. From some of the experts idea above, it can be concluded that listening comprehension is the ability to understand the meaning of message or knowledge that we hear to get information.

Listening has process. There are 8 stages of listening processes, they access to words parsing, memory process, hearing, attending, understanding, remembering, evaluating, and responding. It indicates that the learner must be good in these stages of listening process. From the 8 processes of listening above, all of these processes is important in listening no exception with memory.

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When listening something, certainly we catch the idea of information that we here then comprehend it, after that the information will be digested by the brain then arrived and saved in memory. This is exactly what Beck & Flexer (2014) has said, Listening is where hearing meets brain, and a substantial part of the listening process is WM.

According to Cyntia (2011 p.14) Working memory (WM) is a short-term memory system we use to store and process information we are currently thinking about. It means that Working Memory is the ability to store information for several minutes to several hours later. Working memory can work to re-new or to update information and change the information that received by the brain too. Working memory capacity differs from individual to individual.

Nowadays, in Indonesian educational institution, English has become the obligation subject that must be taught in every level of learners, from elementary up to high level. State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru is one of the formal institute educations in Pekanbaru that teach English as an obligation subject especially listening skill. This school uses School Based Curriculum 2013 (K13) as its guidance in teaching and learning process.

Based on the researcher study preliminary, researcher has observed at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru. The teacher has used the good strategy in listening subject, it was Bottom-up strategy, but in fact the students' score still low. Ms. Ovilia as the English teacher at that school has said in the interview that students still have difficulties in listening which they have lack of vocabulary,

they have difficult on memorizing what the speaker says, they have difficulty to find key words in listening, and it makes students can't focus on their listening.

Nunan (1991) said that, successful listeners use bottom-up and top-down strategies in reconstructing messages. Bottom-up processing is focus on word, vocab, sound, grammatical etc. Top-down processing is a bank prior knowledge that storage in listener's long-term memory in the form of schemata. Thus, those symptom are not in accordance with the theory. It is clear that some students at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru still have problems and difficulties in learning English, especially listening skill. Their listening ability is still far from the hope that desired by the curriculum and what the theory said.

Besides the gabs mentioned above, the researcher regards conducting a research on this school is very important. Therefore, the researcher is very interested in carrying out a research entitled, *The Relationship between Students' Memory and Their Listening Comprehension at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru.*

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## **B. The Problem of the Research**

### **1. The Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background and the phenomena, thus the problems of this research are identified in the following identifications:

- a. Why are the students not able to memorize what speaker says?
- b. Why are the students not able to find key words in listening comprehension?
- c. Why can the students not focus on their listening comprehension?
- d. What are the relationship between memory and listening comprehension?

### **2. The Limitation of the Problem**

After identifying the problems stated above, thus, the researcher is necessary to limit and focus the problems of this research on The Relationship between Students' Memory and Their Listening Comprehension at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru. And the level of this research is the eleventh grade students at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru.

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### 3. The Formulation of the Problem

The problems of this research are formulated in the following research questions:

- a. How is students' memory at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru?
- b. How is students' listening comprehension at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru?
- c. Is there any significant correlation between students' memory and students' listening comprehension at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru?

### C. Objective and Significant of the Research

#### 1. Objective of the Research

Based on the research questions formulated above thus, the objectives of this research are as follows:

- a. To get information about students' memory at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru.
- b. To get information about students' listening comprehension at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru.
- c. To determine whether there is any significant correlation between the students' memory and their listening comprehension State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru.

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## 2. Significance of the Research

Related of the objective of the research above, the significance of this research is as follows:

- a. Hopefully this research is able to benefit the writer as a novice researcher, especially in learning how to conduct the research.
- b. These research findings are also expected to be useful and valuable, especially for both student and English teacher at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru to be positive information for their future learning process.
- c. Besides, these research findings are also expected to be valuable findings, especially for those who are concerned in the world of teaching and learning English as foreign/second language.
- d. Finally, this research finding is also expected to be practical and theoretical foundation to the development of theories of language teaching.

#### D. The Reason for chosen the Tittle

There are some reason why the researcher interested in carrying out this research, the reason are as follows:

1. The tittle of the research is not yet investigated by other researcher.
2. The tittle of the research is relevant with the researcher status as student of English Education Department and Teacher Training Faculty of State Islamic University Sultan Syarif Kasim of Riau.
3. The researcher wants to know the relationship of students' memory and their listening comprehension.

#### E. Definition of the Term

In this research there are so many terms involved in this research, to avoid misunderstanding toward the terms used. The following terms are necessarily defined as follows:

##### 1. Correlation

According to Gay, Mills, and Airasian (2012 p.204), Correlational research involves collecting data to determine whether, and to what degree, a relationship exists between two or more quantifiable variables. The degree of relation is expressed as a correlation coefficient. If two variables are related, scores within a certain range on one variable are associated with scores within a certain range on the other variable. In this research, correlation refers to

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determine the relationship between the students' memory and their listening comprehension at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru.

## 2. Memory

According to Hedge (2013 p.1) Memory is a collection of systems for the storage and recall of information (personal experiences, emotions, facts, procedures, skills and habits). Memory in this research is defined as students' memory at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru.

## 3. Listening Comprehension

According to Richards and Schmidt (2010 p.344), listening comprehension is an understanding a first and second language. Listening comprehension is the process of understanding speech in a first or second language. Listening comprehension in this research is defined as students' ability to remember or use their memory in listening comprehension at State Senior High School 4 Pekanbaru.

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