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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the problem

English is a means for international communication. It has become our lingua franca to communicate with other people from different countries. The majority of people all around the world speak English whether it is the foreign or target language and mother tongue. Therefore, this linguistic ability has dominated the globe, that we need to be able to speak English, at least we can understand it when we find it in the magazine, newspaper, television, direction sign, etc. It will help us to communicate with each other, understand what other people speak, and gather knowledge. The four skills of English are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In this case, the researcher will focus on the listening skill.

Listening is the first skill that we acquire before we can speak, read and write. Listening also develops the students to be able to do speaking, reading, and writing. Therefore, listening is the first skill and the most important than the other language skills. According to Howatt and Dakin in Muhammad Nurul Islam (2012, p. 206) listening is the ability to identify and understand what others are saying. It means that listening is very important to communicate with each other. This process involves understanding a speaker's accent or pronunciation, the speaker's grammar and vocabulary, and listener's comprehension of meaning.

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Habit in listening to English songs can help students to learn English more joyful. According to Davanellos (1999, p. 13), “Songs are not only fun, they have a serious purpose for language learning.” It means that song not only entertains us, but also song can be used in learning English activity. By listening to English songs, the students will automatically engage to learn English because it makes them joyful. When they have enjoyed, it might be easy for them to catch what they were listening to without any burdens. Sometimes the students do not realize that they can sing the music like songs without learning how to sing the songs in a certain way. They can learn many things from the songs. For example, they can get more new words, and learn how the words are pronounced.

On the other hand, pronunciation holds very prominent role in communication. Without knowing any pronunciation, we cannot communicate effectively in English and also other language. When a person communicates with other people, he or she should not only have a good vocabulary and grammar, but also has a good pronunciation. Moreover, being able to communicate correctly and effectively is the goal of all foreign language learners. Without correct pronunciation, however, effective communication does not occur. SevilAk (2012, p. 26) concludes that pronunciation is as the nature of the process to practice listening and speaking by interpreting and producing phonological features respectively. To sum up, pronunciation is the process of listening and speaking by interpreting and producing phonological features simultaneously.



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Senior high school PGRI is the one of senior high schools in Pekanbaru which uses national curriculum as guidance in teaching-learning process including the English subject. In formal situation, English subject is taught twice a week with the duration of time 45 minutes for one meeting. Based on the curriculum, the goal of listening is that the students are expected to be able to respond the meaning in formal transactional and interpersonal conversation in the daily life. In addition, to reach the goal of the curriculum demanded, the students must have ability in English interaction both in informal and formal situation. The standard minimum score of English subject (Writing, Speaking, Reading, and Listening) is 75. However, some of the students could not reach it.

Based on the researcher's preliminary study by interviewing Umi Salmah, S.Pd., the one of English teachers at the first grade of senior high school PGRI Pekanbaru that was conducted on March 29th 2017, some of students had difficulties in their pronunciation. In addition, there were some misunderstanding when they communicated with other people. The problems could be seen in the following phenomena:

1. Some of the students could not pronounce the English words correctly.
2. Some of the students could not understand well what the speaker said because they had limited pronunciation knowledge.
3. Some of the students allowed themselves to feel afraid of pronouncing the new words.
4. Some of the students were silent when express their speaking communication.

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As we know in this era, most of the students like listening to songs especially English song. Listening to the English song and knowing the lyric of the song will be good ways in learning how the words are pronounced. According to Murphey in T. Neil (2011, p. 134), “Songs can help young learners improve their listening skills and pronunciation, therefore potentially helping them to improve their speaking skills.” It means that songs can make students more understand how to pronounce some English word correctly with an easy way. Therefore, through listening to music of English songs, students can learn pronunciation and language everywhere there are because of their habit in listening to the English songs.

Based on the background and phenomena above, the researcher was interested in carrying out a research entitled **The Correlation between Students’ Habit of Listening to English Songs and Their Pronunciation at the First Grade of Senior High School PGRI Pekanbaru.**

B. Problem of the Research

1. The Identification of the Problem

Based on the background illustrated above, it is very clear that the students still have problems, especially in term of pronunciation. Precisely, the problems in this research can be identified as follows:

- a. Why did some of students lack of pronunciation?
- b. Why some of students did not like listening to English songs, but they can pronounce the words well?

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- c. Why did some of students seldom listen to English songs, but they can pronounce the words well?
- d. Why did some of students often listen to English songs, but they did not know how to pronounce the words well?
- e. Why did some of students allow themselves to feel afraid of pronouncing the words?

2. The Limitation of the Problem

Because of some of the consideration of find, capabilities and limited time, this research was limited to the correlation between students' habit of listening English songs and their pronunciation.

3. The Formulation of the Problem

Based on the problems that have been limited, the research will formulate the problems into the following research question:

- a. How is the students' habit of listening to English songs at the first grade of senior high school PGRI Pekanbaru?
- b. How is the students' pronunciation at the first grade of senior high school PGRI Pekanbaru?
- c. Is there any significant correlation between the students' habit of listening to English songs and their pronunciation at the first grade of senior high school PGRI Pekanbaru?

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C. Objectives and Significances of the Research

1. The Objectives of the Research

The major objectives of conducting this research activity are as follows:

- a. To find out the students' habit of listening to English songs at Senior High School PGRI Pekanbaru.
- b. To find out the students' pronunciation at Senior High School PGRI Pekanbaru.
- c. To find out whether there is a significant correlation between the students' habit of listening to English songs and their pronunciation at Senior High School PGRI Pekanbaru.

2. The Significance of the Research

Related to the objectives of the research above, the significance of the research are as follows:

- a. For the students, learning pronunciation by listening English songs can motivate them in learning English and it can make them easier to learn how the words are pronounced.
- b. These research findings are also useful and valuable, especially for students at the first grade and teachers of senior high school PGRI Pekanbaru to be the consideration in teaching and learning process in the future.

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- c. The researcher hopes that the result of the research can be used as references for those who want to conduct a research in teaching English.

D. Definition of Term

1. Correlation

Creswell (2012, p. 338) states that a correlation is a statistical test to determine the tendency or pattern for two (or more) variables or two sets of data to vary consistently. The researcher concludes that correlation is the relationship between two or more things. Thus, in this research correlation is referred to the relationship between students' listening to English songs and their pronunciation at the first grade of Senior High School PGRI Pekanbaru.

2. Habit

According to Richard and Schmidt (2010, p. 258), habit is a pattern behavior that is regular and which has become almost automatic as a result of repetition. Meanwhile, the habit in this research is the students' frequency of listening to English music that is conducted repeatedly and regularly.

3. Listening

According to Nation (2009, p. 38), listening is the way of learning the language. It gives the learner information which builds up the knowledge necessary for using the language.

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4. Song

According to Setia (2013, p.270), song is a form of language that use tones and rhythm as it is also the media of universal language.

5. Pronunciation

Based on Oxford Dictionary (2008, p. 352) Pronunciation is a way in which a language or a particular word or sound is spoken. Pronunciation is producing the sounds of speech, as well as articulation, stress, and intonation.

E. The Reason of Choosing the Title

1. The title of this research has been research yet.
2. The title is relevant with the researcher to carry out this investigation either to sector of found, time, or location.
3. To collect data about the correlation between students' habit of listening to English songs and their pronunciation.