

## USING ENGLISH SONGS IN IMPROVING LISTENING SKILL AT EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS IN MTS NEGERI 1 MANADO

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### *Abstract*

*The purpose of this study was to determine the improvement in listening skill of students by using English songs in class VIII Students at MTs Negeri 1 Manado. This research used the classroom action research (CAR). The subject of this study were 29 students consisting of 16 female students and 13 male students. The data was collected by using test and observation. The data obtained in the cycle I indicated average score of 68.62 with the percentage of students who passed the test was 24.13% while in the cycle II, the average score was 80.84 with the percentage of students who passed the test was 93.10%. Meanwhile, based on observation in cycle I, the students listening skill were considered as deficient and some students could not listen properly to the songs that were played to them. On the other hand, in the cycle II students showed that they had been able to improve their listening skill through the use of English songs. The result showed that there was an improvement their listening skill through the use of English songs.*

**Keywords:** *Listening skill, songs*

### INTRODUCTION

As a foreign language, English has four skills (Reading, Listening, Writing, and Speaking) to be mastered by the students. Among these skills, listening is a skill that consider difficult to master, because it requires more attention and concentration to understand the sound (listening to the material). It can be said that listening is not a passive skill, the process of listening is a complex process in which many things occur simultaneously in the mind. Listening includes comprehension of meaning bearing words, phrases, clauses, sentences and connected discourse. Michael Rost said listening in language teaching refers to a unique complex process that allows the listeners to understand spoken language by pacing and units of encoding.

There are many types of listening. They are Intensive (focus on phonology, syntax, and lexis. Learner pays close attention to what is actually said), selective (focus on main ideas, pre-set task. Learner attempts to extract key information and utilize information in a meaningful way), interactive (focus on becoming active as a learner. Learner interacts verbally with others to discover information or negotiate solutions) and Extensive (focus on listening continuously, managing large amounts of listening input. Learner listens to longer extracts and performs meaning content tasks).

In listening, Listeners must know the sound system, otherwise, they cannot understand the speech. Listening is difficult than many people imagine. It is important if students learn to their own desires, the possibility of their memories to store them in their long-term memories is very large. In this case, Peterson stated learning material must be interesting and something unusual or different. Song is powerful stimulus for students' engagement precisely because it speaks directly to our emotions while still allowing us to use our brains to analyze it and its effect if we so wish. Music and song are included in teaching media, the use of music and song in the classroom can stimulate very positive associations to someone who study language. A piece of song can change and prepare students for a new activity, it can amuse and entertain and it can make a satisfactory connection between the world of leisure and the world of learning.

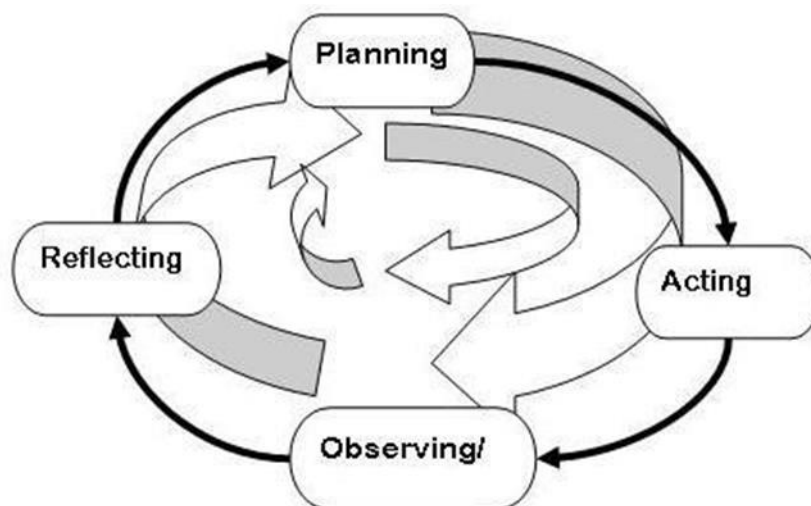
Based on observation in MTs Negeri 1 Manado, researcher found that it is very difficult for students to understand English through listening. They still rely on the eyes rather than the ears to learn English. Usually, in the laboratory, students feel confused when they listen. Most students cannot understand the meaning of the material after playing the first song. The students should not always listen to their teacher sound that has a limitation or even make them bored. Therefore, the researcher tries to reduce the problem of students' listening skills and intends to find out what can be done to help them improve their listening skills. So, in this study the researchers wanted to use English songs to improve the listening skills of eight grade students at MTs Negeri 1 Manado. The formulation of the research question is "Can English songs improve students listening skills at

MTs Negeri 1 Manado”’? Based on the research question as stated before, the objective of the research is to find out whether using English songs can improve listening skills to eighth grade students in MTs Negeri 1 Manado.

## RESEARCH METHOD

In this research used Classroom Action Research (CAR). It meant that action research was conducted in a classroom to increase the quality of learning teaching practices. On the other hand, it could be defined that it is an action that is done to solve a problem in the classroom. Therefore, this research purposed to solve the problem of improving listening skills. Classroom Action Research is a form of mixed methods design in which the researcher converges or merges quantitative and qualitative data in order to provide a comprehensive analysis of the research problem.

Sudaryono state that classroom action research is a qualitative research conducted by the teacher to solve teaching-learning problem with the aim to improve the learning quality.



**Picture 1**

Based on picture above, the first thing to do is a planning something before carrying out the learning process, carry out acting in the learning process, make observing on actions that have been taken in the learning process, and

reflecting on the results learning so that they can do more mature planning. These four stages are repeated every cycle.

The instruments of this research were observation, test and documentation. The data in this research are quantitative and qualitative data forms. Quantitative data were collected from pre-test and post-test. Qualitative data was obtained from the observation guidelines of teacher activities and student activities. In this case, the researcher is involved in the learning process as a teacher while the English teacher is the observer. In addition, data is also obtained from field notes to collect information to complete the data. The formula to finding the average value in data analysis technique as follow:

$$X = \frac{\sum x}{\sum N}$$

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$$\sum N$$

Notes:

X: Mean/Average

$\sum x$ : The sum of student's score

$\sum N$ : Total students

The criteria of observation were as follow:

a. Poor = 20%

b. Fair = 21% - 40%

c. Average = 41% - 60%

d. Good = 61% - 80%

e. Excellent = 81% - 100%

The subjects in this study were students of class VIII Taksifi A at MTs Negeri 1 Manado, totaling 29 students consisting of 13 males and 16 females. The reason the researcher chose this class was because it was recommended by the

teacher and students in class VIII Taksifi A had never learned to use English songs to improve students' listening skills.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### *Findings*

Based on observation, there were several problems of students' lack of hearing in listening skills. Only a few students had adequate listening levels but most of them were still lacking. Lack of giving material about listening also affects the level of hearing of students so that data obtained that does not meet the completeness of learning at the time of pre-test. In pre-test The researcher began the learning process by praying and then continues with the presence of students. After that the researcher explains the purpose of the research to be given. After explaining the purpose of the research to be carried out, the researcher gave the first test using the song of Anna Marrie, which was labeled perfect. The researcher omits some words from the lyrics. The test given is listening to songs and filling in the blank lyrics to students. When checking the questions on the first test (cycle 1), the results are obtained as in the form of the table below.

**Table 1**  
**Pre-Test**

No	StudentsName	Score	Explanation	Categories
1.	DLS	60	Not Complete	Average
2.	SIK	60	Not Complete	Average
3.	MRDA	50	Not Complete	Average
4.	PHS	30	Not Complete	Fair
5.	SSH	65	Not Complete	Good
6.	CSM	60	Not Complete	Average
7.	MNWA	70	Not Complete	Good
8.	SIO	65	Not Complete	Good
9.	MSRM	55	Not Complete	Average
10.	PA	65	Not Complete	Good
11.	TRB	80	Complete	Good
12.	SWT	75	Not Complete	Good
13.	RAS	65	Not Complete	Good
14.	SY	90	Complete	Excellent
15.	RAI	90	Complete	Excellent

16.	FP	60	Not Complete	Average
17.	AMN	70	Not Complete	Good
18.	BP	70	Not Complete	Good
19.	ARS	70	Not Complete	Good
20.	D	90	Complete	Excellent
21.	SAN	40	Not Complete	Fair
22.	NIS	55	Not Complete	Average
23.	NFJ	65	Not Complete	Good
24.	RYL	50	Not Complete	Average
25.	SS	55	Not Complete	Average
26.	TRPM	40	Not Complete	Fair
27.	MAD	60	Not Complete	Average
Total		1.765		
HighScore		90		
Lowest Score		30		
Average Score		60.86		

Based on the data above, it can be concluded that of the 29 students, who reached completeness as many as 4 students. So as to achieve mastery learning in English subjects with the use of English songs to improve listening skills in MTs Negeri 1 Manado in the pre cycle only with an average value.

#### Cycle I

In the planning stage, the researcher prepares various things that are used in the framework of implementing the learning process in the cycle I. Next, the researcher gave a problem using an English song with the title Baby Animal that was related to the material by filling in the blank lyrics, but before that the researcher explains about filling in the blank lyrics again. After the song ends, all students fill in the blank lyrics. Then the researcher gathers the results of the questions given. This activity lasts for 15 minutes. Allocation of time remaining for 30 minutes is used to evaluate cycle I to students. The evaluation is in the form of writing. The researcher plays back the song given and the students write the words or sentences they hear without looking at the lyrics. Evaluation is carried out to determine the level of student listening. In observing, the researcher supervises the activities of students who are focused on filling in the blank lyrics.

Then the researcher also supervises students who actively ask or answer questions given by researchers. In the learning process takes place researchers look at developments in student activities that have occurred in students. This observation aims to be able to determine the level of listening of students when using English songs in the eyes of English language lessons. In classroom learning activities using English songs to improve students' listening skills in English subjects run smoothly and well. Because this activity has never been given by the subject teacher in class, so that it is able to draw attention to students to follow the learning process. The researcher gave the students test and the result can be seen in this following table:

**Table 2**  
**Post-Test cycle I**

No	Name	Score	Explanation	Categories
1.	DLN	60	Not Complete	Average
2.	SIK	80	Complete	Good
3.	HNS	60	Not Complete	Average
4.	RL	80	Complete	Good
5.	MRDA	65	Not Complete	Good
6.	PHS	60	Not Complete	Average
7.	SSH	70	Not Complete	Good
8.	CSM	70	Not Complete	Good
9.	MNWA	80	Complete	Good
10.	SIO	65	Not Complete	Good
11.	MSRM	65	Not Complete	Good
12.	PA	70	Not Complete	Good
13.	TRB	65	Not Complete	Good
14.	SWT	70	Not Complete	Good
15.	RAS	70	Not Complete	Good
16.	SY	70	Not Complete	Good
17.	RAI	95	Complete	Excellent
18.	FP	60	Not Complete	Average
19.	AMN	65	Not Complete	Good
20.	BP	65	Not Complete	Good
21.	ARS	80	Complete	Good
22.	D	95	Complete	Excellent
23.	SAN	80	Complete	Good
24.	NIS	60	Not Complete	Average
25.	NFJ	50	Not Complete	Average
26.	RYL	65	Not Complete	Good

27.	SS	65	Not Complete	Good
28.	TRPM	60	Not Complete	Average
29.	MAD	65	Not Complete	Good
Total		1.990		
HighScore		95		
Lowest Score		50		
AverageScore		68,62		

Based on observation instruments during the learning process using English songs to improve Listening skill cycle I that the average activity of students is 68,62 and student presentations reach 24,13%. This is categorized as bad if viewed from the presentation scale, therefore the researcher next to cycle II to see the improving whether there is an increase or not.

#### Cycle II

In cycle II, the planning, acting, observing were same like cycle II. The researcher gave the students exercise and the result can be seen in the following table:

**Table 3**  
Post-Test cycle II

No	Name	Score	Explanation	Categories
1.	DLN	80	Complete	Good
2.	SIK	80	Complete	Good
3.	HNS	80	Complete	Good
4.	RL	80	Complete	Good
5.	MRDA	75	NotComplete	Good
6.	PHS	78	Complete	Good
7.	SSH	80	Complete	Good
8.	CSM	78	Complete	Good
9.	MNWA	85	Complete	Excellent
10.	SIO	80	Complete	Good
11.	MSRM	78	Complete	Good
12.	PA	78	Complete	Good
13.	TRB	80	Complete	Good
14.	SWT	80	Complete	Good
15.	RAS	80	Complete	Good
16.	SY	90	Complete	Excellent
17.	RAI	95	Complete	Excellent



18.	FP	78	Complete	Good
19.	AMN	78	Complete	Good
20.	BP	80	Complete	Good
21.	ARS	80	Complete	Good
22.	D	95	Complete	Excellent
23.	SAN	80	Complete	Good
24.	NIS	78	Complete	Good
25.	NFJ	78	Complete	Good
26.	RYL	80	Complete	Good
27.	SS	78	Complete	Good
28.	TRPM	75	Not Complete	Good
29.	MAD	78	Complete	Good
Total		2.334		
High Score		95		
Lowest Score		75		
Average Score		80,48		

Based on observation instruments during the learning process using English songs to improve listening skill cycle II that the average activity of students is 80,48 and students presentation 93,10%. This is categorized as good if viewed from the presentation scale. Students who completed the cycle II reached 93,10%, namely 27 people with an average value of 80.48. This certainly increased when compared to cycle I. While the average in cycle I, only increased by 24.13%. If described in the form of a comparison table between pre-cycle, cycle I, and cycle II completeness of student learning in English using English songs to improve listening skills in class 8 Taksifi A in MTs Negeri 1 Manado.

No	The observed aspect	Completeness%		
		PreCycle	Cycle I	Cycle II
1.	Average value	60,86	68,62	80,48
2.	Students complete	13,7%	24,13%	93,10%
3.	Students have not yet finished	86.20%	75.86%	6,89%

### ***Discussion***

In this study, researcher obtained data from students' listening skills tests in filling in gaps lyrics. This research was to find out students' listening skills in filling in blank song lyrics.

From the results of the analysis of listening skills to fill in the incomplete song lyrics of the two songs given in the VIII Taksifi A class at MTs Negeri 1 Manado. Researcher analyzed it and found the results for first with titled Baby Animals, the average value of students is 68.62 and can be classified into a good level. Meanwhile, for second song with titled Fix You the researcher found that their average score was 80.48 and could be classified as good. For the song titled Baby Animals, researcher found that the classification of student levels can be explained that there are 2 students can be classified as excellent levels, there are 20 students can be classified as good levels, there are 7 Students can be classified as average level, and for fair and poor levels there are no students included in that level. For the song with titled Fix You, the researcher found that the classification of student levels could be explained there were 4 students who could be classified as excellent, there were 25 students who can be classified as good level, and for the second song, average, fair, and poor level there are no students included in this level.

### **CONCLUSION**

The conclusion of this research that was conducted at class VIII Taksifi A in MTs Negeri 1 Manado, and from data obtained after researcher used English songs in improve student listening skill in class VIII Taksifi A. The researcher concluded that cycle 1 up to cycle 2, the student's listening skill is improved. It showed from the percentage of students' improvement when the pre-test was 13,7% that referred by 4 students who finished. Then in cycle 1, the percentage of students improvement was 24,13% who stated by 7 of 29 students who finished. The percentage of student's improvement in cycle 2 has raised by 93,10% with 27 students of 29 students who finished the score, it indicates that the using

English songs was effective was improve students listening skill. That means in cycle 2 has increased better than in cycle 1.

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