

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains six subchapters of the study. They are background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definition of terms. They are in detail explained below.

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Humans are social creatures. As it is, human beings live together. To establish the relationship human beings need a communication tool. The main tool for human communication is language. With language, human beings can convey ideas, thought, and message to others resulting in communication. To make the communication goes well, it is necessary to master the language main skills. According to Tarigan (1994: 2) language skills include four aspects, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Listening skill becomes the basis to master other language skills. At the beginning of human life, someone learns to listen first, then learns to speak, to read and to write. Listening skill will effect the ability of other language skills. As Tarigan (1994: 3) has stated that improving listening skill means it will help improve the quality of speaking ability.

The main language skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They are all important to improve learners' English competence. As the language skill, listening is a skill that is felt difficult to be mastered. It needs

more attention and concentration to recognize and even more comprehend the sounds than the context (Mee, 1990). Listening is considered as receptive skill, in which people need the ability to receive spoken language. In Indonesia, listening is one of the aspects that will be tested in final examination especially in senior high school (SMA), thus this skill must be practiced many times.

According to the writer's observation, the listening skill of the tenth grade students at SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang was still low. They had enough difficulties in understanding the audio. It could be seen from their result of the listening test. The writer also found that the teacher rarely gave the students listening exercise. This was because of the lack of the media (audio, speaker, etc) as the writer found when the writer had teaching practice program in SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang. Teachers did not provide the instrument and facilities to develop students' listening skill. So when students faced listening section in final examination, it was very difficult for them to catch the words that they heard. They could not finish the test very well. Because of that, the writer believes that one way to improve the student's listening skill is filling the missing word on text of English song. And also listening is considered the most challenging subject. Therefore 100 scores in listening are unreachable.

Based on these problems, efforts are needed to be done to help the students, and make the students get more enjoyment and successful in developing their listening ability. Therefore the teacher needs an appropriate

technique to stimulate the students' motivation and interest in learning listening skill.

Why does the writer use song ? Because in fact, song is one of the things which is mostly liked by people, the babies, the children the young until the old people. Almost everyone loves songs. It is a part of our language and life from birth onwards. English songs are great language package that bundles culture, vocabulary, listening, grammar and a host of other language skills in just a few rhymes. Song can also provide a relaxed lesson on a hot boring day. It can also form the basis for many lessons (Futonge, 2005).

Using songs in classroom is a great way to live up listening activities. So students can think that music is their inspiration to get something better in their life. Sometimes, students fell bored, sad, lazy, and bad feeling in doing something. So, the writer chooses song as his tool to test the students' ability in listening. Listening can serve futher function of letting to hear the vocabulary items and structure which are familiar to the listening.

Here, the writer wants to focus on the improvement of student's ability in filling missing words on the song text.

Therefore, based on the background the writer will conduct a study about "**A Listening Ability Study of the Tenth Grade Students of SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang in the School Year 2019/2020**"

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

This study will be conducted in order to answer two questions as shown in the following:

1. Are the tenth grade students of SMK Kencana Sakti able to complete and fill the missing words when listening to the English song?
2. What is the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang in completing and filling the missing words when listening to the English song ?

## **1.3 The Objective of the Study**

Based on the questions above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out whether the tenth grade students of SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang are able in completing and filling the missing words and answer the questions when listening to the English song.
2. To find out the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang in completing and filling the missing words and answer the questions when listening to the English song.

## **1.4 The Significance of the Study**

This study has some significance for the teacher, the students, and for the readers. They are in the following:

1. For the English teachers at the researched school, they can know their student's ability, so that they can improve their listening ability.

2. For the writer, through this study the writer can enrich his knowledge in making a thesis to be the partial requirement of the degree of Sarjana Pendidikan and he will know more about listening.
3. For the students, they can know their ability in filling the missing words by listening.
4. For Other/Researchers, the result of this study can become good information for them to be the material for the review of related studied of their studies or researches.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This study is about listening ability of the tenth grade students of SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang. There are several types of listening, such as: informative listening, relationship listening, appreciative listening, critical listening, and discriminative listening. In this study the writer will focus on appreciative listening. The writer just limits his study in filling the missing words on the blank spaces of the text. The subjects of the study will fill in the missing words of the song. The song is “Love Yourself” by Justine Bieber. This song is popular, the song uses the words that can be understood easily. The students are expected to predict the words that should be filled in the blanks and give their synonyms. Besides, in analyzing the difficulties of listening the writer uses the idea proposed by Trinh Vinh Hien as stated on page 11 and 12.

## 1.6 Definition of Terms

This section offers the definition of some terms related to the topic in order to help readers to understand this writing.

### 1. Ability

Ability is a potential capacity or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1987: 2). Dealing with this study, ability means the students' capacity in filling the missing words when listening to an English song.

### 2. Filling the missing words

Filling the missing words means putting the words into specific construction to make it meaningful. In this case, the students are expected to fill the blank spaces with the right words.

### 3. Listening

As defined by Hornby (1993: 206), listening is a complex problem solving skill and it is more than just perception of the sounds. Listening is making an effort to hear something. For example : listen to the radio, tape. In other words, listening is to pay attention.

### 4. Appreciative Listening

It includes listening to music for enjoyment, to speakers because you like their style, to your choices in theater, television, radio, or film. It is the response of the listener, not the source of the message which defines appreciative listening.

## 5. Words

Word is written or spoken unit of language: words are used in a piece of text or speech (Oxford Dictionary). In this study word means a piece of text or speech in English song that the students need to catch to complete the song.

## 6. SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang

SMK Kencana Sakti Kupang is one of the public senior high schools in Kupang City which is located at Jl. Karya Kencana No. 11, Kelapa Lima Kota Kupang East Nusa Tenggara Province