

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

It is the first chapter of this proposal. This chapter consists of six points to be treated i.e. background of the study, statement of problems, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

The main language skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They are all important to improve learner's English competence. As the language skill, listening is a skill that is felt difficult to be mastered. It needs more attention and concentration to recognise and even more comprehend the sounds the context (Mee, 1990).

The main problem with listening seems to be the fact in real life situations the students have no control over the speed of what they are hearing and they cannot go back or 'rewind' to listen again, unlike reading. Although in class the listening materials are recorded and can be played again for student to listen again, it is usually under the control of the teacher who declares: 'let's listen again', (Underwood, 1989). also because of speed at which native speaker's usually speak, student feel that they cannot keep up with the speaker's speed and they are lost. They can not hear the pronunciation clearly. When they fail to understand every word while listening, they stop listening and lose the thread,

which seems to be the reason for the state of panic and worrying they usually show before and during listening.

Listening is one of the components of language learner. An effective communication can be done if they have good listening ability, and listening ability therefore becomes the main thing which must be possessed by someone if he or she wants the communication.

Listening is an active process and requires serious effort. Many people speaking is more difficult but indeed listening is a difficult than speaking. Thus, listening is indispensable in teaching and learning process.

The students will fill in missing information in the text without paying careful attention to the way they use certain words. How well they listen is partly the result of how much work to put into listening. That effort depends upon how interested they are in what they are listening to and how important they think it is.

The writer used short conversation because most students in senior high school still have difficulties in listening, they have problems of vocabulary or unfamiliar words and students can not recognize the main points in listening tasks. So, listening test is a good media for listening skill. It is easy to understand. In listening short conversation, we can listen to the pronunciation of words. Short conversation is the best vehicle for passing on factual information to students.

Using short conversation in classroom is a great way to live up listening activities. Short conversation can be wonderful media for natural language, furthermore short conversation will make the students relax and fun. By using conversation, listening will be interesting and enjoyable. So, the writer choose short conversation as his tool to test the students ability in listening. Listening can

serve the further functions of letting the students hear the vocabulary items and structures which are familiar to hearer.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in conducting a research under the topic: **“A Study On Listening Ability of the Tenth Grade Students of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang in the School Year 2018/2019”**.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The main problem of this study is to know the students' listening ability through short conversation. The problems are formulated in some questions as follow:

1. Are the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 5 in the school year 2018/2019 able to listen English short conversations or not?
2. What is the ability level of the tenth grade student of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang in completing and filling the missing words when hearing the short conversation?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

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

1. To find out and to know whether the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 5 are able to listen English short conversations or not.
2. To find out the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang in completing and filling the missing words when hearing the short conversation.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is actually the usefulness or benefit of a study for human beings.

Thus, this study has some benefits for the following persons:

1. For the teacher

As the sources for English teachers of the researched school in evaluating the material especially in teaching listening, so they can plan the next teaching process more effectively.

2. For the students

Based on the finding of this study, the students will be informed about their fill the missing words in listening.

3. For other readers/ researchers

The result of this study can become good information for them to be the material for the review of related studies of their studies or researchers.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study will is about listening ability of the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 5 Kupang. There are several types of listening, such as casual listening, creative listening, esporatory listening, and intent listening. In this study the writer uses casual listening, especially the Aesthetic listening. The writer just limites of the study in filling the missing words in the blank spaces of the conversation text. The subjects of the study will fill in the missing words of the conversation. The students are expected to predict the words that should be filled in the blanks.

1.6 Definition of Terms

To assist the readers understand the terms used in writing, the writer would like to present some definitions of term:.

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 conversation.

2. Listening

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

3. Conversational listening is listening in social interaction.

4. SMA Negeri 5 Kupang

SMA Negeri 5 Kupang is one of the public senior high schools in Kupang city which is located in W. J. Lamentik street.