

## THE INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH SONG TO IMPROVE ENGLISH SKILLS FOR STUDENTS

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### **Abstract**

*Currently, English language skills are the most important thing that students should have. In this world there are many ways that can be used to develop English language skills. One way is by using songs. The aim of the research in this article is to find out how successful the use of songs is in developing English language talent in students. This research uses a qualitative study method. The author obtained some data regarding how songs are used to develop students' level of English by assessing previous research and analyzing several guides such as books, articles, journals and documents that are still related to the discussion being tested. From this, the author can draw the conclusion that using songs as a tool to develop improved English language skills, this is the fastest way to develop students' abilities. therefore many songs can be found easily in student life. So songs can easily help students' listening and pronunciation levels. and this song can also help students in using songs. The use of songs can help students to develop listening and pronunciation skills them which can also add to the vocabulary they have.*

**Keywords** : Song, Listening, English Education, Speaking

## INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, the ability to speak English is very important needed for communication. English is a universal language that is used by everyone to communicate throughout the world and English has become the most studied foreign language in the world. Kitao (in Lolong, 2019). English language skills are an important thing to have

by anyone, including students. Omi Ongge, Chancellor of the University of Student English at Muhamadia University Yogyakarta (UMY), said that English is one of the most important things for students in a limited discussion "The Importance of English Language Skills" at the UMY Integrated Campus. Apart from being

an international language that helps communicate with other people, currently there is a lot of evidence that supports lectures in English. Therefore, students need to improve their English skills. There are many ways you can improve your English language skills. Especially in this day and age, by utilizing existing technology, students have many ways to improve their English language skills. One way is to use songs. According to Jamalus (in

Andaryani, 2019) a song is a work that expresses thoughts

and the feelings of the creator through the elements of the song, such as rhythm, melody, harmony, form and structure of the song, as well as expression as a unit. According to Griffé (in Lolong, 2019), songs are easy to find everywhere, because songs exist in every aspect of human life. For students, songs are certainly nothing new.

Almost all students definitely like songs. Listening to songs is something fun, so it can make the mind more relaxed. In English, there are four main skills that students must have, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students can utilize songs to improve the fourth

This aspect is because the use of songs is believed to improve English language skills. There are three main things that can be developed using songs, namely listening, vocabulary and pronunciation.

Previous research was conducted by Lolong (2019). This research aims to identify students' perceptions about learning English using songs. And also to analyze and describe aspects of learning that can improve students' English skills by listening

English songs. This research uses a descriptive method, namely by collecting data. The results of this research are that students say that using English songs to learn English is fun, not boring, an effective learning medium, entertaining, a medium for learning about culture, an encouragement to learn, and increases brain capacity. The similarities between this research and the research that the author will carry out

is that they both use songs as a method of learning English. Meanwhile, the difference lies in the objectives and methods used in the research.

Based on the description above, the author is interested in conducting research regarding the use of songs to improve students' English language skills. There are many benefits of songs that can help students to improve their English development. The research objective of this article is to determine the effectiveness of using songs to improve students' English language skills. From the results of this research, it is hoped that benefits will be found that illustrate that through songs, English language skills will become better.

## **DISCUSSION**

After conducting a literature review regarding the problem

under study, the author found that songs are very influential in English language skills students, because songs are very easy to understand and memorize student. The following are three aspects of English language skills can be improved through songs.

### **Listening**

Songs are everywhere, so songs are one of the best media to improve listening skills. Listening to songs is an activity which many people usually do in everyday life. If you like it a song, we will definitely listen to it often, and we will get used to it listen to English words. This can certainly improve listening skills in English.

### **Vocabulary**

If you often listen to a song you like, the song will stick in your head and repeat itself without realizing it. This process makes it easy to identify new English vocabulary that you want to learn. By remembering and understanding English songs, listening to them will help recognize the meaning of the words in the song and allow students to automatically expand their vocabulary.

### **Pronunciation**

Songs play a very important role in helping students to improve pronunciation. When we listen to a song, we will accidentally sing along to the song. By singing songs, we finally

practice pronunciation. Indirectly we will recite the lyrics of the song. That's why songs can help us practice pronunciation.

### **Discussion**

Based on the research results described previously, the results of this research have been obtained. In order to understand it better, it will be explained more fully in the following discussion.

#### **Song definition**

The following is the definition of a song according to experts:

1. Songs are a type of sound that has rhythm in it (Poerwadarminta)
2. A song is a piece of music with sung words (Webster Dictionary)
3. Songs are feelings, emotions and expressions of thoughts in rhythm (Neville)
4. Songs are a variety of rhythmic sounds (Big Indonesian Dictionary)
5. A song is an artistic composition of tones or sounds in sequence, combination and temporal relationships (usually accompanied by musical instruments) to produce a musical composition that has unity and continuity (contains rhythm). (Wikipedia)

From the opinion above, it can be said that the meaning of song is related to sound, includes elements of rhythm, melody and harmony, creates beautiful things, and can be enjoyed as a listener.

#### **Why does it have to be a song?**

First, as quoted in Namibia in Suhartina (in Nagauleng, 2015), songs are said to be more likely to attract people's attention than other media. A person who is completely deaf and thinks he is a good singer, or a person who does not understand the words of a song can listen

the song itself. Second, students often learn to sing songs in English, even though they do not fully understand the meaning of the words.

Suwartono (2012) argues that the rhythm and credibility of songs can be used for language learning. Rhythm and tone convey excitement. As real material, this song motivates listeners to imitate it in whole or in part

lyric text. Consistent with the opinion above. Nurdiana (in Nagauleng, 2015) concluded that songs can be used in many activities because listeners can capture the speech or utterances and the results can be communication, and as an educational medium, songs can support improving

student activities.

Learning activities are more successful if they relate to students' interests, desires and goals. Nowadays, young Indonesians have a great interest

in songs. This is proven by the proliferation of music programs and events in the country which are more focused on young people. Slameto (in Angmalisang, 2013).

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that songs are very influential in students' English language skills, because songs exist in every human life. Apart from that, songs are also easy for students to understand and memorize.

### **Listening**

In English, listening is a very important skill. Because, we must be able to know and understand what other people tell us. Listening is an activity that pays attention to the speaker and tries to find the meaning of what is heard. Listening is the most important language skill and part of communication. Through listening, we can share ideas with other people. According to Brown (in Lestary, 2019), listening is the main component in language learning and teaching because in learning, we hear important things in everyday life.

Basically humans cannot speak before listening, we can see this in the development of young children. They generally learn vocabulary by listening and watching when interacting with other people. Wallace et al (2004:13) write that listening

ability is a very important ability because this ability enables humans to gain insight, understanding, knowledge and information, as well as achieve success in communicating with other people. Therefore, listening ability is a very important skill in language.

Listiyarningsih (2017) stated that one way to improve listening comprehension is by listening to English songs. Listening to English songs can improve students' listening skills. When someone listens to English songs, their ears will subconsciously get used to hearing so that when in class, someone who is used to listening to songs will find it easier to get the meaning of what is being said. Apart from that, according to research conducted by Sari (2009), the use of songs is quite effective as a medium for improving students' listening skills. From the results of his research, almost all students said that they were interested and motivated learning to listen to songs while doing assignments. It can be concluded that using songs as a medium to improve listening is the right medium.

The data above is strengthened by research conducted by Lestary (2019) which states that the use of songs for teaching English is very

important. There are positive and negative views about the use of songs in teaching English. Using songs in the learning process, especially in listening lessons, is fun. Students can also improve their listening skills as a meaningful strategy to overcome their problems in listening skills. Thus, it is concluded that using songs to improve listening skills is an effective way.

### **Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is one of the important things that you need to understand to learn English. Because without understanding vocabulary, it will make it difficult for us in the learning process. According to Hornby (in Novikasari, 2011) vocabulary has three meanings. First, the number of words in a language. Second, all the words that a person knows or that are used in a particular book. Third, a list of words and their meanings, especially those found in textbooks in foreign languages.

In the Big Indonesian Dictionary, vocabulary is a vocabulary. The meaning of the word itself is the spoken or written element of language that represents reification, but the unity, emotion, and thought that can be used in language. Vocabulary plays an important role in everyday human life. As stated by Ismawati (in Farindy,

2014) that vocabulary is a very important element of language, because someone's thoughts can only be clearly understood by other people if they are expressed using vocabulary. Students' ability to speak English is greatly influenced by how much vocabulary they have. Because to speak a language, we need a lot of vocabulary, which will be arranged into sentences. Likewise, if we want to understand English, we have to master or know a lot of English vocabulary.

Nurkhaeni (2010) found that by using English songs, students could easily understand and remember new vocabulary. Apart from that, Burhayani (2013) believes that songs can be effective because they help students enjoy the learning process and make it easier for them to learn new words. By singing or listening to a song, students can learn what a new text or word means without having to ask someone else or look it up in a dictionary. In line with the opinion above, Nur (in Nagauleng, 2015) stated that songs are quite effective in building vocabulary and pronunciation. Generally, students can memorize the assigned songs. The ability to memorize songs automatically provides advantages in



pronunciation and vocabulary training.

Another research that strengthens the opinion above is research conducted by Lolong (2019) entitled Student Perceptions of the Use of English Songs for Learning English. Based on the results of this research, it was stated that fifteen participants felt a good impact on their vocabulary mastery, while the other five did not feel a good impact. Many of them said that they discovered new words when they listened to English songs and one of the factors that influenced this was because they enjoyed them.

### **Pronunciation**

Pronunciation is an important aspect of English language skills. Dalton and Seidlhofer (in Ifadah, 2011) define pronunciation as the production of sounds that are significant in two senses. First, sounds are important because they are used as part of a particular language code. Second, sounds are important because they are used to achieve meaning in the context of their use. Apart from that, according to Hornby (in Mulatsih, 2015) there are three meanings of pronunciation, namely the way in which a language is pronounced; the way in which a word is pronounced; and the way a

person pronounces the words of a language. From the description above, you can It can be concluded that pronunciation is a way of saying or pronouncing a word in English

Ifadah & Aimah (2011) in research entitled The Effectiveness of Songs as a Learning Media in Teaching Pronunciation, showed that pronunciation ability is influenced by listening and pronunciation practice. Pronunciation habits will influence flexibility in pronouncing according to English. As is known, language is a matter of habit. The more we practice, the easier it is to learn a language. Likewise with listening, and the more we listen, the easier it is to practice pronunciation.

According to Kusrini, there are two reasons songs can help improve pronunciation. First, the song is an original and accessible example. Rhymes in songs give the listener a repetition of similar sounds. Second, students often choose to listen to songs repeatedly, thereby indirectly exposing them to these sounds. Apart from that, according to Ratnasari (in Lolong, 2019), the most effective way to practice pronunciation is to practice daily life through personal interests. In this study, some students preferred playing games to

increase their vocabulary, while others preferred singing and listening to English songs and reading poetry to improve their listening, pronunciation and fluency skills in English.

To support the opinion above, based on research conducted by Lolong (2019) entitled Student Perceptions of the Use of English Songs for Learning English, it was stated in the research results that there were sixteen students who felt that their pronunciation abilities became clearer by using songs. They follow what the original singer said to clarify the pronunciation. They said they would practice by pronouncing what they heard from the song, and this could certainly improve their pronunciation.

### **Song selection**

According to Douglas Brown (in Anonymous), a good song has four important characteristics.

1. A good song needs a universal message and a story worth telling. So song ideas are all around us every day, but we need to capture that one special message.
2. Need to remember good songs. The hook line usually appears in the chorus. Or displayed if there is no chorus in the first or last line.
3. A good song is easy to understand. This means using

songs as a medium to teach that "who, where why" needs to be told.

4. Good songs use imagery.

Apart from that, according to Nagauleng (2015), there are four considerations in choosing songs that can be used to improve language skills. English students are:

1. Students must know the structure and lexis of songs.
2. Songs must be appropriate to the level and age of students.
3. The words of the songs are appropriate to the student's level of understanding.
4. Songs should be interesting to students.

When choosing songs to improve English, it is important to considering certain aspects such as vocabulary, the meaning of the lyrics, the message contained in the song, and language level. According to Nurhayati (2009), there are three things that need to be considered so that the use of songs to improve English language skills is effective, namely:

- (1) the student's skill level,
- (2) the type of song, some songs are not suitable as learning media, for example the pronunciation is bad or wrong,
- (3) difficulty (language difficulty) in the song. Please remember that not all English songs can be used as learning resources. For



example, songs with too much music, songs with too many figurative words, words empty, and so on. Choose songs that are simple and suit your learning needs. Apart from that, choose songs whose lyrics can be heard clearly and pronounced correctly.

There is one example to develop students' English skills, namely by listening to songs. as an example of a song, namely, Dynamite. This song comes from Korea but is sung in English. By listening to this song, students can hone their hearing in English, because when pronouncing English in Korean it is very difficult to hear, and sometimes not clear. and also we can also get vocabulary in English sung in Korean. From there, students began to feel challenged and began to want to look for the vocabulary of what was said in the song.

Another example of a song is the song entitled "Count on Me - Bruno Mars", which tells the story of friendship that complements each other in the face of shortcomings. This song has a tune that is easy for listeners to remember. Also, this song can also train your hearing or listening skills in English. Here the listeners will definitely also learn a lot from the way the singer speaks, from the language

that the listeners might listen to songs that contain slang in them, so they can also learn, and remember whatever vocabulary they have just learned. So with this song method, it can make it easier for people to master English. Over time, they will definitely be able to master speaking and singing. When they have mastered speaking pronunciation, they will definitely be able and successful in English language skills.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the processed data that the author has described in the discussion; it can be concluded that using songs to improve English language skills is an effective way because songs are easy to find in students' lives. Apart from that, songs are also easy for students to understand and memorize. The use of songs can help students to develop their listening and pronunciation skills, which can also increase their vocabulary.

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