THE CORRELATION BETWEEN PRONUNCIATION MASTERY AND LISTENING TO AN ENGLISH SONG OF SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP NEGERI 17 PALEMBANG

A Thesis by

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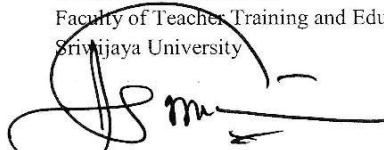NIP. 195504131984031001

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Certify that the thesis entitled "**The Correlation between Pronunciation Mastery and Listening to an English Song of Seventh Grade Students of SMP Negeri 17 Palembang**" is my own work. I did not do any plagiarism according to the rules commenced by Ministry of Education of Republic Indonesia Number 17, 2010. Therefore, I deserve to face the court and to have my bachelor title revoked if I am found to have plagiarism in this work.

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Last, the writer knows that this thesis may have weaknesses. So, anyone may give comments and also provide suggestions. Thank you.

Palembang,

The writer,

Lifella Chyntia

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study were to find out (1) whether or not there was a significant correlation between pronunciation mastery and listening to an English song (2) how the pronunciation mastery and listening to an English song were. The study was correlational with Pearson-product moment analysis. The population of this study was 245 students of SMP Negeri 17 Palembang and selected by using purposive sampling technique. Class 7.6 was chosen as the sample and it consisted of 34 students. Since the two other students were absent, so the sample consisted of 32 students. To collect the data and to measure students' listening to an English song, one song (Blue Night by MLTR) and pronunciation mastery test were given. The Pearson correlation was used in data analysis using SPSS 21. Furthermore, the correlation between the two variables was not significant since the r-obtained was lower than the value of r-table (.035>.349) at the 0.05 level (2-tailed). The value of probability (.849) was higher than 0.05, so there was no significant correlation between pronunciation mastery and listening to an English song of seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 17 Palembang. One factor that may affect the result was some of the students had known the song.

Keywords : Correlation, Pronunciation Mastery, Listening, English Song

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter has (1) the background, (2) the problems of the study, (3) the objectives of the study, and (4) the significance of the study

1.1   BACKGROUND

Kreidler (2004) states that English nowadays is the first language of almost 400 million human beings and the second language of many others scattered all over the world. As it is stated above, we all know that some people in the world know English. It can be used as the first language, the second language or a foreign language. For example, Indonesia, English is as a foreign language. People talk and listen. In order to be able to talk by using English, we must know the correct pronunciation of expressions. For the listeners, in order to understand what is said, the knowledge of pronunciation of the listeners must also be good. Everybody has learned his/her mother tongue since he/she was very young. In Indonesia, English is used as a foreign language, in other words as non-native speakers we must be familiar with the pronunciation of each word. We need to know the correct pronunciation (the way we pronounce the words).

According to Harmer (2001, p.1), "Although English is not the language with the largest number of native language speakers; it has become a lingua franca. A lingua franca can be defined as a language widely adopted for communication between two speakers whose native languages are different". According to O'Connor (1980) written English language and spoken English language are exactly two different things. When we are having writing, it just needs marks on paper that we do not pronounce the sounds out. However, speaking needs sounds out, taken by the ear. We need to say the sounds out with the correct pronunciation. So, that can be concluded if we would like to practice our pronunciation, make sounds.

In terms of letters and sounds, O'Connor (1980, p.7) states that "letters and sounds must never be mixed up". Letters are written while sounds are spoken". Both of them are important. There is one reason., that is, it is because written words can make us remember the corresponding of the sounds but there is also one disadvantage of written thing; we cannot pronounce the sounds that we have not known before. So again the writer can conclude that to have good pronunciation, he/she must make sounds to pronounce in order to practice it.

As O'connor (1980) states that language starts with the ears. Therefore, the ears must be flexible when we are learning language especially English. Not just by listening but we must also understand about what other speakers are saying. In order to understand, we should be familiar with the pronunciation. Pronunciation should be pronounced correctly, so the speakers who are listening can understand what it is about. Without knowing the correct pronunciation, it is very hard for the learners to speak and listen. Based on some statement above, it can be concluded that pronunciation is an important component in learning English and must be mastered more. Kenworthy (1987) states, there is a special symbol which is used for a significant sound of English. For example, the word 'book' so the pronunciation is /buk/. When that symbol appears, it means that is the way how English sounds are pronounced. The symbol can be found in Oxford Dictionary which consists of monolingual language. We can own Oxford Dictionary in which the content has the phonetics. It is the way we pronounce the words because we can not only learn pronunciation just only when we are in classroom.

Let us take an example with the writer's own experience. When the writer was listening to music, the writer listened to the word 'empty' /emti/. What the writer knew about the pronunciation of that word was /empti/ but in fact, the /p/ is silent letter. So it is pronounced /emti/. The writer knew the word 'empty' but did not know the correct pronunciation of that word, so at that time, the writer was not able to know what the lyric was. From the statements above, it can be concluded that pronunciation is not only important for speaking but it is also very important for listening. As

Hancock (2012) points out that pronunciation is not only about the mouth, but also the ears. And, with English being a global language, the ears must learn to be flexible in order to make sense of all those varieties of spoken English out there. It means that we are as human beings must not only able to speak fluently but our ears must also be able to listen well. Listening to English songs, sometimes the listeners get confused about the lyrics, about what they are pronounced in the songs. As English is not our mother tongue (Indonesia), the students must learn all the correct pronunciation in all vocabulary that we know.

In this research, the writer conducted a research entitled The Correlation between Pronunciation Mastery and Listening to an English Song of seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 17 Palembang. The reason why SMP Negeri 17 Palembang was chosen is because the writer had observed three classes at that school during PPL. What the writer found during PPL was the students were weak in pronouncing the correct pronunciation. In this research, the writer correlated between mastery of their pronunciation and listening to English song which had been selected by the writer.

1.2   Problems of the Study

1. Is there any significant correlation between Pronunciation Mastery and Listening to an English Song of seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 17 Palembang?
2. How are the pronunciation mastery and listening to an English song of seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 17 Palembang?

1.3   Objectives of the Study

Based on the two problems above, the objectives of the study were to find out:

1. Whether or not there is a significant correlation between Pronunciation Mastery and Listening to an English Song of seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 17 Palembang.

2. How the pronunciation mastery and listening to an English song of seventh grade students of SMP Negeri 17 Palembang are.

1.4   Significance of the Study

The results of the study are expected to be useful for:

The English teachers: They are able to make a good atmosphere in classroom and are able to teach the students pronunciation creatively.

The students: They are able to pay attention to the correct pronunciation.

Future researchers: They are able to know that pronunciation can be checked by using Oxford Dictionary.

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