

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

This chapter contains the background of the problem, statement of the problems, delimitation of the problems, research questions, the objective of the research, and the significance of the research. Those subjects will be explained further below.

#### **Background of the Problem**

In this era, one of the basic language skills which Indonesian students found it challenging is listening skills. According to Gilakjani (2011) stated that Indonesian students have limited listening knowledge. However, listening is an important skill EFL students should master. According to Anshori (2019), listening is an essential skill that every English learner must understand. We can understand what other people say and help the student forget the information and knowledge from listening. Jiati (2014) stated that listening is important as the skill that needs to be improved to allow learners to interact in spoken communication. To master listening skills, students should utilize several aspects one of them is vocabulary. The students who have varied vocabularies in their mind will be able to comprehend the point of the conversations.

In learning English, listening is one of the skills that students must master. However, some students find obstacles in listening comprehension. Students struggle in listening because they are unable to understand the native speakers'

pronunciation of words. Therefore, students need to increase their vocabulary mastery to assist them in the listening process.

Based on the researcher's observation during her learning activity at English Language Education Department (ELED) of a private university in Yogyakarta, the students have already learned about listening in the Listening and Speaking for Formal Conversation Course. In addition, the lecturers of the Listening and Speaking for Formal Conversation Course usually do the listening activity before starting the class. However, many students still find difficulty in doing the listening activity. When doing listening activity students faced some obstacles. Based on observation, the difficulties a listening activity include misunderstanding the vocabulary. Before starting the listening activity students feel unconfident they do not understand the meaning or the material. Another problem is related to the listening materials. Some students are often find the similiar words while they are listening.

The role of vocabulary in learning a foreign language cannot be avoided. A rich vocabulary will greatly help students master English and its four main skills which include listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The importance of this is evidenced by Thanh Huyen & Thi Thu Nga (2003, in Rouhani & Purgharib 2013) who define vocabulary as a language element that connects four language skills including listening, speaking, reading, and writing in foreign language learning. Furthermore, Wita (2017) said that recollecting a lot of vocabulary will support students' listening skills. In learning English, listening becomes important for the learners, understand what other people. A student in English Language

Education Department needs to be proficient in vocabulary mastery. Moreover, English Education Students need an adequate vocabulary to communicate with each other and read, listen, write, and speak with no problems. Saadillah (2017) argued that the more vocabulary students have will help them to increase their listening skills.

Vocabulary mastery and listening skills are two components that can not be detached. When doing a listening activity, students need the vocabulary to help them understand the material, the speaker's pronunciation, and the word. Therefore, if students have much vocabulary, they can understand the listening material. Stæhr (2013) stated that vocabulary and listening skills have a strong relationship. Therefore, there are some empirically supported indications of a fairly strong relationship between learners' receptive vocabulary and their listening comprehension.

Based on the students problem with the listening material, speaker's pronunciation, and the word, it can be concluded that vocabulary mastery is important in listening skills. Students need to remember and mastering a lot of vocabulary to learn English. The researcher is interested to find out the effect of vocabulary mastery towards students' listening skills because the researcher is curious to know students' vocabulary mastery and their listening skills.

## **Statement of the Problem**

Vocabulary is the key to success when doing listening comprehension. According to Saadillah (2017) the more vocabulary that students have, will help them to increase their listening skills. In the English Education Department of the one Privat University of Yogyakarta students face vocabulary problem. One of the problems is the difficult remembering the word. They still look doubtful and reluctant to connect with their teachers and friends using English, because they do not master vocabulary.

Listening skill are important skills in English that students should learn. Moreover, at the English Education Department of the Private University of Yogyakarta the students encounter some problem. Students' issues include they difficult clearly hear what the native speakers say, they keep misunderstanding as they struggle to keep up with, the native speaker's pronunciation due to their speaking speed, especially in understanding the monologue or dialogue spoken by the speaker. Usually students have difficulty when in these situations. They claim that the speaker's communication style leads them into a million confusions that even the teacher has played the audio for two or three times. This is one of the causes of students having difficulty in listening. Based on the problem, the capacity of each person is different. These are caused by the lack of vocabulary, not recognizing accents, less knowledge about language, and others.

From that situation, the researcher conclude the problem that students face in listening skills. Students still have difficulty the recording because many words has similiar sounds. A factors influencig the problem that students do not have

much vocabulary to remember. students tend think they do not understand the meaning from the listening material. From that problem, the researcher wants to know the effect of vocabulary mastery on students' listening skills.

### **Delimitation of the Problem**

Some factors influencing the listening skills, include vocabulary, spelling, pronunciation, accents, less knowledge about language, and others. The researcher chooses Listening and Speaking for Formal Conversation. The reason is in this course, there is a lot of unfamiliar vocabulary that is only used in formal activities. The Listening and Speaking for Formal Conversation Course provide an opportunity to practice their listening skill. Furthermore, this research only focuses on the effect of vocabulary mastery on students' listening skills.

### **Research Questions**

The research questions are :

1. How is the vocabulary mastery level of the students at ELED of one private university in Yogyakarta ?
2. How is the listening skills of the student at ELED of one private university in Yogyakarta ?
3. How is the effect of vocabulary mastery on the listening skills of the students at ELED of one private university at Yogyakarta ?

## **Objectives of this Research**

Based on the following research question above, the purpose of this research is :

1. To investigate the students' at English Education Department vocabulary mastery category in learning English at a private university.
2. To find out the students' ability in listening skills in the English Education Department of one private university at Yogyakarta.
3. To find out how is the effect of vocabulary mastery towards students' listening ability of the English Education Department of one private university in Yogyakarta.

## **Significance of the Research**

Hopefully, this research is useful for students, lecturers, and other readers.

The significant of this research are :

*For teachers.* Knowing the result of this research can give information about the students' vocabulary level , listening comprehension, and the effect of vocabulary mastery towards listening skills. Hopefully it can be used and make students interested in remembering vocabulary to make it easier for them in listening activities.

*For students.* After knowing the result of this research, the students are aware that learning and remembering vocabulary can to be more mindful and make more efforts their listening skills. Then the students understanding the

strategies to learning vocabulary mastery. Hopefully, students can improve their listening skills after mastering vocabulary. .

*Other researchers.* This research can be one of the references for doing the next research related to the effect of vocabulary mastery on students' listening skills. By reading this research, other researchers who want to do similar research may use this research as references.