

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter contains about introduction of the study. This chapter talks about background of the research which explains the topic of the study and the reason of choosing the topic. In this chapter also discusses about the statement of the problem, delimitation of the research, research question, objective of the study, and the significance of the research.

Background of the research

English language becomes a global and international language that can replace other languages. This is supported by Morozova (2013), who said that in this era, the existence of English would replace different languages as a means of communication worldwide. English has become essential in some fields, such as education, communication, and tourism. For example, in the educational context, some schools provide English lessons. Students should know and learn English because English has become a foreign language. English is an international language because it is the most widely used language in international communication. One of the things that needed to be considered so that communication goes well is being able to listen well. In addition, listening skills are also essential.

Communication with others is crucial for social objectives. As a result, learning settings offer students lively stimuli that help them develop their listening abilities.

Practice is also a crucial step in the learning process. According to Ahmadi (2016) listening is very important, the students should pay more attention to obtain communication aims, listening can support input for students and listening also has an important role in the development of language knowledge. From this statement we know that listening is important to build a communication. People usually used listening comprehension because it can be mostly used in daily life and develop faster than the other language skills. According to Tyagi (2013) Listening comprehension is the various processes of understanding and making sense of spoken language. Listening comprehension is important because it is a skill for oral communication between native and nonnative speaker.

English proficiency test (EPT) is one test used to measure language skills, including listening. English proficiency test aims to assess learners' English ability as second language learners or non-native

Listening test is more complex than most people realize, especially when using English. According to Renukadevi (2014), one of the difficulties part of the listening test is that the test-taker sticks to one particular articulation style while using different pronunciations and accents. One of the difficulties part of the proficiency test is the listening test. It took more effort and concentration to listen. Based on the informal conversation with student who has English proficiency test, the researcher found that some of students has low achievement and difficulties in doing listening in English proficiency test the listening section of the English proficiency test also has difficulty.

Some students claim that the listening section of the English proficiency test is challenging. Many students claim that they need clarification on the listening part of the English proficiency test. Researcher interested to choosing listening test because listening more interested from other skill. In listening test the questions can't repeated, listening test has limited time, and there are only answers on the question sheet.

Even though the listening test is difficult and requires high concentration, it will be easier to do it by knowing the difficulties of listening in English proficiency test and the need for student opinions because students will continue to be connected to the test. So, when students understand the difficulties, it will make it easier for students to do listening. When they know the difficulties of listening, students will prepare themselves, and students can concentrate highly and can get grades as expected.

Statement of the Problem

An English education department of a private university in Yogyakarta used English proficiency test to measure student English proficiency tests. English proficiency test is needed by students who will graduate. This test measure the English proficiency level of the students. From this test, students know the level of their English proficiency. And this test is also helpful in preparing to continue the study. In this test, some parts are listening, grammatical and structural, and reading.

Based on the interviews that the researcher conducted with several students who had taken the test at the private university in Yogyakarta and after doing the English

proficiency test, the researcher found that the students English education department have difficulties in listening of English proficiency test and low achievement in the listening English proficiency test. From this phenomena, the researcher is interested in investigating the difficulties listening test of English proficiency tests based on students' perceptions. It aims to investigate the difficulties of students listening test.

Delimitation of the Research

In this research, the researcher focuses on the student's perception of the difficulties listening tests in standardized English proficiency tests. The target is students of English Education, one of the private universities in Yogyakarta. To make this discussion more detailed, the researcher limits the problems. Firstly, the researcher finds out the student's perception of the factor influencing difficulties listening tests in English proficiency test. Secondly, the researcher investigated the student's strategies for doing listening test in English proficiency test.

Research Question

To conduct this study, the research questions are used as a guideline. The research questions are formulated as follow:

1. What are student perception of the difficulties listening test in English proficiency test?
2. What are student strategies in listening English proficiency test?

Purpose of the Research

This research has purposes which could be formulated as follows:

1. To find out the students' perception about the difficulties students face of listening in English proficiency test.
2. To find out the strategies that students do to overcome difficulties of listening test in English proficiency test.

Significance of the Research

The researcher hope that this study can give benefit for people who read this research study, especially for the researcher, teacher and the students.

Researcher. The researcher can use this research as a reference for further studies related to English proficiency tests. And also, this research gives the benefit of adding insight into English proficiency tests besides theory and workforce guidelines.

Teacher. This research will give the teacher more information about the factor influencing difficulty in listening English proficiency tests. Knowing these points, the teacher can help students prepare well for the English proficiency test.

Students. The result of this research will helpful for students to recognize the factor influencing difficulty of listening in English proficiency tests. It can be beneficial for students to be more prepared before listening in English proficiency t