

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ON THE USE OF ENGLISH SONGS IN THE ENGLISH LEARNING PROCESS

Nauval Chaidir Hilal Al Fauzan

Universitas Islam Malang

Email: Nauvalchaidir@gmail.com

Abstract: English learning process is a process which is done by both learners and educators. English learning process means there will be a teacher or a lecturer who will help their students in mastering English as their active language. But on the other hand, teaching English to students sometimes may be felt so hard for some educators. Many techniques and media are offered to ease and help them in teaching English, such as using English songs. The research was about the exploration of English students' perception on the use of English songs in the English learning process. This study was conducted at University of Islam Malang with five chosen English Department students. Those five participants were coming from seventh semester. The data was analyzed qualitatively with interview which was conducted in only one time. The interview consisted of fifteen questions. It needed a week for the researcher to take data. To make the data more valid, the researcher did triangulation. The result of the research showed that the use of English songs could give many good effects that must be very useful for the participants. The use of English songs had positivity in increasing students' English skills, such as Grammar, speaking skill, and listening skill. Also, English songs could enrich students' English vocabulary. Nevertheless, there was an opinion found from the interview which said that sometimes the use of English songs in the English learning process was felt unenjoyable. The things that made it felt unenjoyable was that English songs were hard to understand for they often show the students' many new and strange words. From this research, there are things which must be improved by the future researchers. It is suggested for them to more explore the students' perception about the use of English songs. Also, in order to find more detail and satisfying result, it is suggested for the future researchers to find the perception based on English lecturer's point of view.

Key words: English learning process, English Song, English students

INTRODUCTION

The existence of language in the world must be very crucial, for language refers to one of the most important element which can unite everyone around the world. Language is nothing but human subjects in as much as they speak. Language is something coming from the inside of the speaking subject manifest in the meaningful intentional aim of the individual speaker (Castillo, 2015). Language refers to foremost a mean of communication, and communication always takes place within some sort of social context. This is why effective communication requires as definition and recognition of the connections between a language and the people who use the language itself (Amberg & Vause, 2010).

Language is well-known as the tool used to communicate. People, or even animals are united with their species by a language they use in their environment. People could not live

their life without a language. They are known as the social-creature which means they cannot live by themselves or they do need others. The only thing which can get them in touch with others is language. There are so many kinds of language we can find all around the world, such as: English, Indonesian, Japanese, and so on.

English is well-known as the international and universal language. English is international language that is needed by everyone to face the modern era. English is international business language, most of international businesses are done by English as the tool to communicate (Kusuma, 2018). Therefore, because of its popularity and its function as the international language, English becomes the most learned language in many countries all over the world.

In Indonesia, English has been included in the curriculum of schools and universities as well by the department of education. It means that, the existence of English in Indonesia may be well-said as a crucial thing, this might be the strategy of Indonesian government to prepare their youth for facing the globalization era, for we know that globalization era is an era in which there will be many countries that will compete one each other in certain cases, such as economy and science. Also, people around the world must have various ways to learn and master English language. For examples, some people use games as their way to learn English, some others use English books, and some others even use English songs as their media to help them in mastering English language.

Songs are part of everyone's life. As a cultural phenomenon, they bring many information about the culture and identity by which it was created. They affect the emotional sphere of people's lives and give a deeper insight into their minds (Vishnevskaja & Zhou, 2019). Song also contains many important lessons inside its lyrics, such as life lesson, religious values, love, and so on. With this unique benefits of song, people must be able to apply this to any kind of life aspects, one of them is applying this unique benefit of song to the learning process of English. Song can be one of the most effective ways to influence the emotional behavior of students, because they may assume that listening to song in the classroom is not an educational process, but rather it is a game or an activity to relax their soul.

Teaching English to students might be a very challenging process, for teaching English language means lecturers will deliver a knowledge about a language to their students who are very strange with that language. Learning a strange language can be very difficult for students, they may feel bored and uncomfortable. Most of Indonesian learners have trouble in their conversation in English as they are lack in their listening (Isma Ulviana, 2019). Students need something interesting and useful that can enhance their listening skill. That can be a home work for lecturers to find the solution. It is necessary for lecturers to bring students to the interesting learning activities. Like what many English lecturers apply to their class activity in English Department of Universitas Islam Malang, they use English songs as their supporting media in delivering English material to their students.

There are so many advantages of applying them as learning media in the classroom, they are so easily available. Song also can create a relaxing, entertaining and non-threatening classroom atmosphere in which learners lower their anxiety filter and be more open to learning (Chen & Chen, 2009). From this citation and another citation mentioned above, it can be well-said that the use of English songs in the English learning process is effective

enough to be implemented. Nonetheless it is based on the previous researchers' perception, then what's about the perception of the use of English in the English learning process based on the English students? Because they may have different opinions with the previous researchers' opinions.

This is the reason that makes the researcher doing this study about students' perception on the use of English songs in the English learning process. Students may have their own opinion about what their lecturers give to them in the class activity. They may receive it, or they may refuse and feel uncomfortable with what their lecturers deliver to them, in this case, especially when their lecturers delivering the English material by using English songs as the supporting media. This differences of perceptions become the main reason of why the researcher doing this research. The researcher of this study formulated the research question as follows:

1. How is students' perception on the use of English songs in the English learning process in English department of Universitas Islam Malang?
2. What skills are able to be increased by using English songs in English learning process at English department of Universitas Islam Malang?

RESEARCH METHOD

In terms of the procedures and the patterns assumed, this study was included in qualitative descriptive research. Qualitative descriptive research was aimed to actually collect information as many as possible, identify problems, make evaluation, and determine what others doing in facing the same problems and learn from what they have experienced to decide the goals and decisions in the following time. The researcher of this study tried to describe the reality of English education about the use of English songs in the learning process of English language. The topic discussed in this study was quite interesting to be examined deeper.

This study was conducted in English Department of Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Universitas Islam Malang. As the reason of why the researcher chose this place was that the researcher knew that some English lecturers there often used English songs as media in the learning process which they handled. The participants of this study were 5 chosen students in seventh semester at English Department of Universitas Islam The participants were chosen because they were high achiever students. The identity of these 5 students was written as S1, S2, S3, S4, and S5.

FINDING

1. English Songs Preference

The five English students chosen as participants by the researcher showed different preferences in choosing English songs as their favorite pal to accompany them in doing daily activities. According to the result of the interview, it was found that four of five participants loved to listen to English songs so much.

"I love English songs so much, English songs like Rock, RnB, and EDM make me feel like fully charge and full of spirit in doing my daily activities. I used to listen to

English songs in every single time”. On the other side, S2 said, “I listen to English songs not only in English courses, but I use to listen to it every day. I am a moody girl, I usually play English songs based on my mood. When I am sad I usually listen to Adele’s song, and when I am in a good mood I often play Rock music, like the music of Queen, from Spotify. It is good to improve my energy”. As stated by S₁

Another opinion was also stated by another participants on the interview conducted on January 25, 2021, S3 and S4 stated that they also loved to listen to English songs. In the interview, S4 said that she loved to listen to English songs for it could help her in earning many new English vocabularies. She added that she began to listen to English songs since she was in first grade of Senior High School. Meanwhile, S3 stated that he even loved to listen to English songs since he was in elementary school.

“I love English songs so much, especially English songs which is played in Rock n Roll and Punk genre. I fall in love with the lyrics they bring into the music. Through music, they can deliver their critical thinking about the government. Sometimes they also tell me how to understand the meaning of love. I love English songs since I was still in elementary school”, said S3.

This can be meant that English songs are not only a component of useless instrumental poem, but it can be said a media to criticize a system which is run by a government. Also, it can be a media to help someone in increasing his/her knowledge about English.

Even though most of English students which the researcher chose as the participant of this study love to listen to English songs, there was one participant who stated that she did not really love to listen to English song. She said in the interview,

“I do not really love English song. I would rather play Indonesian song than play English song. I do not really like English songs for I often find difficulties in understanding their lyrics when I am listening to them”.

From those statements given by the participants of this study, the researcher concluded that many English students love to listen to English songs in their daily life activities. They love to listen to them for English songs can improve their spirit and energy, and they can be a truly pal to accompany them in their spare time. English songs also can be used as a media to deliver our critic to the government. There will always be a different opinion in every time researchers want to take a data for their studies, like what the current researcher of this study experienced when he did the interview, he found that there was one participant who stated that she did not love to English songs. As the reason, she often found many difficulties in understanding the lyrics of the songs.

2. Students’ Perception on the Use of English Songs in English Learning Process

After conducting the interview and asking the participants about their participants about the use of English songs in the English learning process, the researchers found some new findings. There were many varieties of answers found in the interview. Most of the participants stated that the use of English songs in English learning process was good to be implemented continuously. As stated by S1 in the interview. She said,

“I totally support and agree with the implementation of English song in English learning process. English songs can give many useful information in every time the listener listen to them. They can learn something new from the lyrics brought by the songs”.

From the statement given by the participant S1, the researcher found that English songs were able to give good effect for the listeners. They could find many information and new knowledge inside the lyrics. This statement was equal with the researcher's statement which was cited in the background of study of this research, where it said that English songs' lyrics were really useful and it had many good benefits for the learning process of English language.

3. Students' Perception on the Effect of the Use of English Songs to English Skills

In the last point of this part, the researcher provided the students' perceptions about the effect of English songs implementation in English class at English department of Universitas Islam Malang which was gotten from the conducted interview. It was about what English skills are able to be increased by using English songs in English class activity. There were some findings the researcher found at this point.

The first finding was gotten from the interview with S1. From her statement in the interview, she stated that the use of English songs in the learning process of English language could give many positive effects to some English skills. She added that the use of English songs certainly could increase students' listening and speaking skill.

“When we are listening to English songs in the classroom, our ears will listen to them in serious way. And our brain will automatically catch the words sung in the song lyric, then it will automatically make our tongue try to pronounce the words we catch”, stated S1.

Listening to English songs frequently will train students' ear to always listen to English words and it will make them to be used to listen to many strange English words. Through English songs students might find strange English words, or even a new sentence that they never ever found at the previous time. It could be a challenge for them to know what it meant by the sentences and words written in the lyrics of the songs. And that challenging thing could give them a new knowledge about English, especially for their vocabulary mastery and grammar comprehension.

English songs also could give a positive effect to students' writing skills. By listening to English songs, they might know the spelling of some words they had never known before. As stated by S4, she said that she actually often got difficulties in writing some English words. She did not know much the spelling of certain English words. But by listening to English songs, she often found the spelling of the English words she did not know. This finding showed that English songs also certainly could give good benefits to increase students' writing skill.

DISCUSSIONS

In this sub-chapter, the researcher gave a discussion about the findings he found in the interview conducted with the five participants. Many English students often found a boring feeling during the class was being held. They do need something fresh to re-build their spirit and energy up. English songs could be one of the solution for this common problem. English songs feels like have something strong inside to fresh the students' mentality. Song also can create a relaxing, entertaining and non-threatening classroom atmosphere in which learners lower their anxiety filter and be more open to learning (Chen & Chen, 2009). By implementing English songs during delivering English material, English lecturers can help their students to relax their mind. In this case, they will automatically bring a fun and enjoyable atmosphere to the class activity, and truly that is what most of English students want in their classes. They want an enjoyable and fun teaching-learning process. So that they can learn English easily, and they even may put more interests to learn English language.

The positive vibes which English songs spread to the English learning process may be the reason that make it suitable to be implemented continuously. As the researcher found the findings about the effects of English songs implementation to English skills and language elements, the five participants nodded the same that the use of English song in the learning process could give many useful things to students' English skills and their comprehension about English language elements. There are so many advantages of applying English songs as learning media in the classroom, they are so easily available. They can give new vocabularies and expressions in certain context. Through them, students can be more familiar with the pronunciation of English native speakers, and this must be very useful for their speaking and listening skill.

English songs also can be very useful for they are easy to find. It closes to everyone. Songs are part of everyone's life. As a cultural phenomenon, they bring many information about the culture and identity by which it was created. They affect the emotional sphere of people's lives and give a deeper insight into their minds (Vishnevskaja & Zhou, 2019). If this is utilized well by both English lecturers and students, it will affect so many positive effects to the English learning process.

CONCLUSION

According to the result of the conducted interview, the participants' perception about the use of English songs in English learning process were found in many varieties. However, most of the participants agreed that English songs could be one of solution that could help them in increasing their interests in learning and also their English skills. According to them, English songs could give some positive vibes to some English skills and English language elements.

First, English songs were able to give benefits to students' speaking and listening skill. By listening to them, English learners could habituate their ears to not be strange with some English words. They also will automatically learn how to pronounce some English words, and that must be very useful to improve their English speaking skill. Secondly, the use of English songs in English learning process could also give a support to increase students' writing skill. Through the lyrics of English songs, they might know the spelling of some English words they had never known before. For the last point, English songs could give

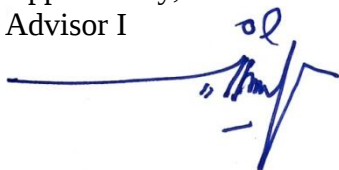
positivity to their English language elements comprehension. Grammar and vocabulary mastery were the elements which were affected most by the use of English song in the teaching-learning process.

English songs were something very useful that can help both lecturers and students in conducting English classes. They can take many advantages from those man-creations. For English songs can give many benefits to English learning process, it can be strengthen that the use of English songs can be implemented continuously in the learning process of English language.

References

- Amberg, J., & Vause, D. (2010). *American English: History, Structure, and Usage*. Pennsylvania: Cambridge University Press.
- Castillo, J. M. (2015). The Speech Act as an Act of Knowing. *International Journal of Language and Linguistics*, 31-38.
- Chen, Y. C., & Chen, P. C. (2009). The Effect of English Popular Song on Learning Motivation and Learning Performance. 28.
- Isma Ulviana, A. A. (2019). The Effect of full Video Captioning on EFL Learners' Listening Comprehension. *Jurnal Penelitian, Pendidikan, dan Pembelajaran*.
- Kusuma, c. S. (2018). Integrasi Bahasa Inggris Dalam proses Pembelajaran. *jurnal Efisiensi-Kajian Ilmu Adminastrasi*, 43-50.
- Vishnevskiaia, M., & Zhou, Z. (2019). The Impact of Using Music and Songs on Teaching EFL in China by Non-native English Teachers. *Universal Journal of Educational Research*, 1808-1813.

Approved by,
Advisor I



Drs. H. Ali Ashari, M.Pd

NPP. 1910200021

