

A RESEARCH ON IMPROVING LISTENING SKILL THROUGH ENGLISH SONGS

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Summary: *This research is aimed at improving students' listening skill in faculty of English Language Studies, HUBT. This research used English songs as technique in enhancing listening. Most of the students were not able to listen well because they lacked of vocabulary. From this result, it can be concluded that listening to English songs can develop students' listening skill.*

Keywords: *English Songs, Listening, improve.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Currently, English is widely used language in the world. A lot of learning materials from major educational institutions and universities are written in English. More than half of the web pages on the Internet are also written in English, such as newspapers, tools, and services on the Internet. Just know this language and you will be able to access this endless source of information. This is one of the biggest benefits of showing how important it is to learn English. More than 1 billion people worldwide speak English, though only about 380 million people speak their native language. This shows that English is becoming increasingly important for not only learners majoring in English but also everyone in any profession. For that reason, English is always a compulsory subject that is especially interested in by Hanoi University of Business and Technology in particular and universities of business and technology in general. We all know that students learning English needs to focus on 4 basic skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In which,

listening is considered one of the most difficult skills and requires the hardest work. Many methods are believed to be effective in practicing English listening skills. Practice listening to English through English songs is one of the most popular methods. I am doing this research to help students majoring in English improve their listening skills through English songs.

II. DEVELOPMENT

1. Definition of listening skill

As defined by Oxford (1993: 206), listening is a complex problem solving skill and it is not just perception of sound. Listening involves understanding the meaning of connected words, phrases, propositions, sentences and language. Furthermore, according to the Bulletin in Saricoban (1999), listening is one of the basic language skills. Listening skill can be meant as ability to pay attention or to hear something. But, listening is not same as hearing. Hearing is essentially an automatic, passive activity. While, in listening the brain doesn't automatically translate the words into the message they are conveying

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2. The meaning of an effective method for listening skills

Like other skills, listening skill is an important role in acquiring knowledge of English. If you listen well, you will improve your pronunciation and communication skills. Listening right from the start: When learning a foreign language, start listening as soon as you can. This way, you will become familiar with the language sounds. So that learning pronunciation will become easier.

Listening is one of the extremely difficult skills for English learners because native speakers' intonation, pronunciation, and concatenation cause a lot of problems for listening, and therefore, having a method Effective and appropriate listening is seen as an important key to helping learners increase the listening skills. An effective listening method helps learners easily absorb and absorb, memorize sounds better, besides that it makes learners have more interest in learning, not feel bored. Listening is a difficult skill, but it is mostly neglected in middle and high schools, which is why college students feel overwhelmed and score low on the listening test than other skills.

3. The effects of English songs on listening practice

Music is the best thing for emotional connection. The lyrics, melodies help music enter the hearts of listeners more easily than anything else, so music becomes an extremely effective method for learning listening skills in English. Songs can also provide a relaxed lesson on a boring day. They can also form the basis for many lessons (Futonge, 2005). Almost everyone loves songs. It is a part of our language and life from

before birth onwards. As a baby, we often hear our mother and father sing a song to deliver us sleep in the bedroom. When young children, we play, sing, and dance to a rhymes. Therefore, English songs become one of the great tools for practicing listening skills for language majors. When we listen to a song over and over, we tend to sing along. And over time, you will always remember its words and melodies. This inadvertently helps English learners improve their pronunciation, remembering words from which to hear better.

There are many documents that have positive claims about the effectiveness of music as a means of acquiring language in the most effective way especially for listening skills for English learners. It has been reported to help second language learners acquire vocabulary and grammar, improve spelling and develop the linguistic listening”(Medina, 2002: 1).

English songs area also considered as a motivator for students to listen to. The importance of motivation in second language teaching and learning has been discussed for mar years. Teachers and researchers believe that motivation plays an important part in the process of acquiring an additional language. Songs, especially current pop songs exert a great influence over the young generation from which our students come. And because songs deal with the whole realm of human emotions and experiences- from love, hate, joy, to loneliness and sadness, they really appeal to the young people. While many students find it difficult and stressful to learn a new language, songs can help wash away these feelings. Each song has its own lyrics and as the lyrics.

By using songs in the classroom, students can practice their listening skills and increase their cultural knowledge. Practicing lyric reading, studying the vocabulary, and listening to various songs can help students become more familiar with popular songs and make them more confident in their ability to listen and understand the world around them (Brown, 2006)

III. CONCLUSION

This research paper has provided

information, helping to form a theoretical and conceptual framework for the study. First, the definition of listening skills, and difficulties in learning listening skills are given by some authors, in which listening is considered an important role in teaching communicative language. Besides, learning to listen to English songs has been proven by researchers in their relevant documents. This partly helps learners to trust and choose songs as a reliable method to improve their listening skills./.

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NGHIÊN CỨU VỀ CẢI THIỆN KĨ NĂNG NGHE THÔNG QUA CÁC BÀI HÁT TIẾNG ANH

Ngô Thị Thu

Tóm tắt: Nghiên cứu này nhằm cải thiện kĩ năng Nghe của sinh viên khoa Ngôn ngữ Anh – HUBT. Nghiên cứu sử dụng các bài hát tiếng Anh như là phương pháp trong việc cải thiện kĩ năng này. Hầu hết sinh viên đã không nghe tốt được vì thiếu vốn từ. Kết quả nghiên cứu chỉ ra rằng bài hát tiếng Anh có thể cải thiện được kĩ năng nghe.

Từ khóa: Bài hát tiếng Anh, nghe, cải thiện.