

A RESEARCH ON IMPROVING LISTENING SKILL THROUGH ENGLISH SONGS OF THE FIRST YEAR ENGLISH MAJORS AT HANOI UNIVERSITY OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY (HUBT)

Nguyen Hoai Phuong *

Summary : *This study is aimed at improving the freshmen English majors' 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

English is considered the most commonly used language in the world. With more than 350 million people around the world speaking English as a first language and more than 430 million speaking it as a second language, there are English speakers in most countries around the world. At the same time it also plays a very important role in the development of the country and its people. For English majored students at Hanoi University of Business and Technology (HUBT) improving this language is of utmost importance as it relates to the job they choose to do in the future. With an excellent faculty and current facilities, the university has fully provided 4 skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing in an English study course. Most first-year students have difficulty in listening and they have found ways to improve this skill, in which, the way to improve listening skill through English songs is highly appreciated by many students. As for that, I am doing this research not only

to help freshmen in our university with better listening ability but also to support first-year students at HUBT to beware of learning listening skill problems then adopt this way to make progress in English listening skill.

II. DEVELOPMENT

1. Listening skill:

Listening is the first of the four language skills. Listening plays a vital role in daily lives. Everyday people listen for different purposes, such as, entertainment, academic purposes or obtaining necessary information. It is essential for learning languages since they enable to acquire insights and information, and to achieve success in communicating with others. However, many students fail to seize them because of some learning difficulties in listening class.

According to Howatt and Dakin (1974) definition, it is the ability to identify and understand what others are saying. This involves understanding a speaker's accent and pronunciation, his grammar and his vocabulary and grasping his meaning.

* Faculty of English Language Studies, HUBT

In fact, listening is almost ignored in both secondary and high school, where students spent seven years in English language learning. This results in poor listening skill when they become English major. As compared with other language skill, listening is considered the most challenging subject. Therefore, low scores in listening are unavoidable.

2. English songs

It is quite difficult to establish only one definition for this term, as the concept of “music” is something very subjective and can vary from one place to another, from time to time and even from person to person as it is related to their feelings. However, Michael Linton describes music as “the organization of sound and silence into forms that carry culturally delivered meaning”. Luciano Berio, meanwhile, says, “music is everything one listens to with the intention of listening to music”

It is clear from the previous definitions that music is an emotion shaper. It moves feelings and affects perceptions. Songs in particular play this role effectively as the lyrics provide meaning to music. This is extremely relevant and beneficial to language learning. In fact, a song can be a great language package that bundles culture, vocabulary, listening, grammar and a host of other language skills in just a few rhymes. It can also provide a relaxed lesson and form the basis for many lessons.

3. Relationship between listening skill and English songs:

Listening to the songs means that you appreciate the lyrics, rhythms, vocals and melody and try to understand the meaning. The song is part of the music which contains lyrics being sung. The song itself consists of words which

express the writer’s ideas, feelings, and experiences. .

There are several reasons that songs might be helpful in improving listening skill. Firstly, English songs are associated with native speakers, since they are sung by the natives. Furthermore, songs also include in authentic materials. Secondly, songs are easy to get. We find them anywhere and anytime. We can download them on the internet or just send the via bluetooth on the mobile phones.

Any chance to hear English is helpful. Even if it’s just putting on background music during mealtimes, playtimes or when you’re travelling. To really improve English, one will need to listen carefully and make some times to understand the song lyrics and think about what they mean.

First-year students majored English were selected from HUBT for the survey. After collecting information, the results showed that more than 2/3 of first-year students had difficulty in listening skill. Especially students often listen the wrong way, the wrong message.

III. METHODOLOGY

The author used a questionnaire survey to collect data.

1. Collecting data

There are two groups of participants in the study. One group has 20 students who are randomly chosen from 12 classes of first-year students of English major at HUBT. Specifically, in this group, there are more female students than men with a rate of 11/9 and most of them are students with high academic results. The other group consists of 20 other students, of which up to 13 students are weak students and have low scores in listening tests.

To conduct the research, the researcher

came up with a questionnaire survey consisting of 9 questions and divided it into 3 parts. First, the first 3 questions were intended to get information from 40 students about the difficulties they encountered in practicing listening skills. In the next 3 questions, the researcher focuses on exploiting the methods students use to improve this skill. Finally, the researcher asked 3 questions about the outcome students achieved after applying the methods.

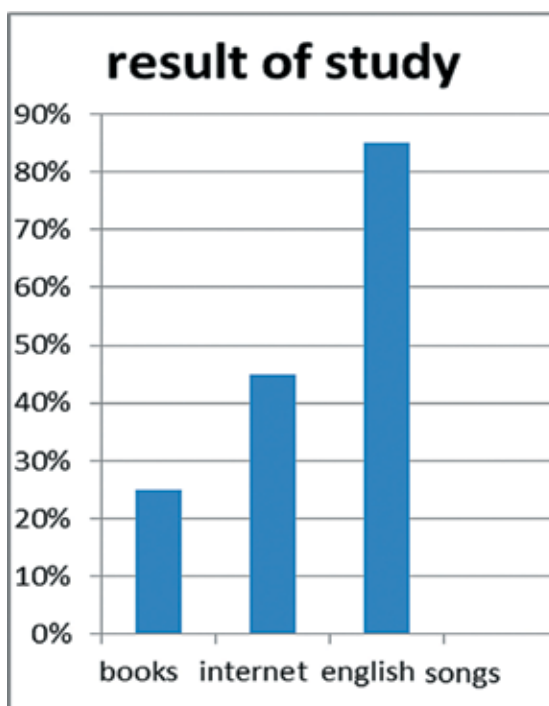
Besides, some information will be collected including test results, interviews, classroom observations of first-students at the Hanoi University of Business and Technology while learning listening skill.

2. Analyzing data

First, the researcher explains the purpose of the study as well as clarifies the questions of the students and instructs the students to respond effectively. The questionnaire is then sent directly to each student. Within 10 minutes, students are required to answer all 9 questions in the questionnaire.

After that, The researcher collected data from the responses of 40 students. Finally, the results have been presented in a graph of percentages.

According to the results of the questionnaire, up to 85% of students choose English songs as a method to improve listening skills. The rest learn through the internet and books but are ineffective. From the above results show, most of the ways students choose English songs to improve their listening skills. and they got the results they wanted. The above results show that in most of the ways students choose English songs to improve their listening skill at the highest rate and they got the results they wanted.



IV. CONCLUSION

1. Conclusion

The results are clearly shown that most of the students choose music as the method to help them improve their listening skill. It has been proven through listening tests. Students who regularly listen to English songs usually score higher than other students.

Through this paper, I would like to make a strong statement that English songs play a magical role in improving listening skill. In some specific songs such as: *I do, you belong with me, proud of you ...* the author uses the exact words and pronunciations from native speakers. Such songs, therefore, can be used as a form of reinforcement for listening.

In short, it can be said that most of the first year students think that listening skill is a difficult skill, inaudible, the remaining skills are also difficult to develop. And what makes them feel more receptive is when they hear and feel English songs. Listening to music in English will definitely

enhance language comprehension. English music improves your listening skill and builds up vocabulary. Music even helps their pronunciation. skill. It is proven from the results of research on how to improve listening skills of first-year students majoring in English at HUBT.

2. Implication

This study records the conclusion of a method of improving English listening skills through English songs by surveying freshmen English majors at Hanoi University of Business and Technology about how they practice listening skills outside of school. In this article, the researcher thinks that practicing listening skills through English songs is very good.

First, students can listen to the same song over and over again, and practice pronunciation correctly according to native speakers. Secondly, songs that have a lot of sounds such as music, instruments, drums ... not only the lyrics, so students will develop a great ability to listen under a lot of noise. Finally, students become aware that their listening skills can be improved through the many English songs of their own choosing. Based on those descriptions above, the researcher believes that the action hypothesis of this research is proved: "English songs improve the listening skills of freshmen English majors at Hanoi University of Business and technology (HUBT)./.

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NGHIÊN CỨU CẢI THIỆN KỸ NĂNG NGHE THÔNG QUA CÁC BÀI HÁT TIẾNG ANH VỚI SINH VIÊN NĂM NHẤT CHUYÊN NGÀNH TIẾNG ANH TẠI TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC KINH DOANH VÀ CÔNG NGHỆ HÀ NỘI

Nguyễn Hoài Phương

Tóm tắt: Nghiên cứu này nhằm cải thiện kỹ năng Nghe của sinh viên năm nhất khoa Ngôn ngữ Anh – HUBT. Nghiên cứu sử dụng các bài hát tiếng Anh như là phương pháp trong việc cải thiện kỹ 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 kỹ năng nghe.

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