

ABSTRACT

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The first process of language learning is receiving language input. It becomes the fundamental role in the successful language learning. Moreover, it is supported by several factors that may become a problem for students. For those reasons, this study aimed to find the problems in English listening comprehension for EFL young learners. The detailed reasons and general solutions for the difficulties were also explored for better listening comprehension ability.

Students of the 5th grade in SD IT Insan Teladan, Cileunyi, Bandung and the English teacher were enrolled in this study. The participants are chosen based on purposeful sampling. Sixteen (16) students were selected as the participants by consideration that they were more experienced in learning English and actively practice their listening ability. They were asked to take a listening quiz as the process of observation to find the categorizations of their difficulties in English listening comprehension. Then, they were asked to express their experience of that listening practice to find out the reasons for those difficulties. Additionally, interviewing the teacher was conducted to discover the solutions to assist the students to enhance their listening ability.

The research result showed that the students' vocabulary mastery and audio speed are the main problems in comprehending English listening passages. Moreover, the detailed reasons proved that unfamiliar vocabulary, the length of the audio and unclear pronunciations of the speaker specifically caused the students' difficulties in English listening comprehension. Finally, the teacher mentioned several strategies to assist the students in improving their listening ability. Those are activating students' prior knowledge and vocabulary mastery, introducing various accents, and using different audio inputs for listening practice. This research recommends that teaching listening to EYL students must be focused on enriching students' vocabulary mastery, introducing to the common topics of listening, and cultural knowledge. Also, varying the activity of learning listening comprehension such as listen and read can help the students to improve their understanding in English listening material.