

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

English is one of the most important subjects to be studied at the Secondary School in Indonesia. In this case, the Department of National Education includes English as one of the major subjects to be tested in the National Examination at the Secondary School, along with Mathematic and Indonesian language. The passing grades in the National Examination for these three subjects increased each year from 4.25 to 4.50 in 2008 and it has risen up to 4.75 in 2009. Each year these grades reflect the minimum national standard set by the government for the students who want to continue their education, from Secondary to Senior High School.

In terms of English, there are four skills that should be taught in the Secondary School (Depdiknas: 2009). Listening and Reading are receptive skills and speaking and writing are productive skills (Brown, 2001: 232). All these four skills are embedded into the teaching materials for Grade VII - IX students of the Junior High School based on the Educational Unit Level Curriculum (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan: KTSP).

It is also stated in the KTSP for Secondary School that there are four meetings for English lesson at any grade of the Secondary School in a week, which consists of 45 minutes of teaching and learning for each meeting. But in the instructional process, there is no exact time allocated for listening, speaking, reading, and writing

skills respectively. Therefore, listening comprehension in Secondary School creates a new challenge for both teachers and students. Listening is known as the most important and difficult skill for all students. That's the reason why so many students have problem with it and sometimes depends a lot on the aptitude. Especially for students who from the countryside since they have never learn it before. With a teacher, finding effective methods to teach listening skill will help their students find this subject more interesting. For that reason, the writer would like to narrow down some main problems that almost all students have and appropriate strategies are also needed for both teachers and students to meet the challenge.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

This research observes the barriers in listening comprehension experienced by Grade IX students. To focus on the students' problem during listening comprehension, the research problems are formulated in the following questions:

1. What barriers do the students of Secondary School encounter in Listening Comprehension?
2. What strategies do the students use to overcome those barriers in Listening Comprehension?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to find out some answers to the problems as mentioned above. In other words, this study is intended to:

1. Analyze the barriers that students of Secondary School encounter during the Listening Comprehension.
2. Find out the strategies that students of Secondary School use to overcome barriers in Listening Comprehension.

1.4. The Scope of the Study

Comprehension is used for Reading and Listening, but in this research, the researcher focuses on Listening Comprehension. There are many aspects that can be studied on listening comprehension, such as, the definition of listening comprehension, importance of listening comprehension, and ways of promoting listening comprehension in the classroom. It is of course difficult to include them all, So this research focuses on barriers in listening comprehension. It is intended to look very closely on-barriers in listening comprehension faced by Grade IX students of the Secondary School. In this study, the researcher tried to focuses on the barriers in listening comprehension after doing their listening comprehension activity.

1.5. The Significance of the Study

A study which is designed to discover some intended results and should have significance. This study hopefully would give some relevant contributions to those who are very keen on the barriers in listening comprehension among Secondary School students.

After identifying barriers in listening comprehension among Secondary School students, then the researcher will identified strategies used by them in facing listening

comprehension. The results of this research are expected to provide some information on students listening barriers for theory and practical.



