



## THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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**Annotation:** *Learning a new language is a difficult journey which requires several skills and listening plays an intrinsic role in language learning. This thesis reveals the significance of listening in the process of studying a new language and how attentive listening can improve comprehension, vocabulary and overall experience, by giving effective methods.*

**Keywords:** *Listening comprehension, vocabulary, language retention, pronunciation, accent, podcasts, communication.*

**Introduction:** In the past, written documents were dominant in language learning, but over time, listening skills have emerged as significant in language acquisition. Because of advancement in technology and internet accessibility, resources for enhancing listening skills have become more readily available.

The ability to understand listening is a vital part of learning a language, especially studying English as a foreign or second language. Listening is a clue in comprehension, vocabulary, and pronunciation as it is easy to find authentic and interesting materials such as podcasts, audiobooks and even movies. Additionally, it can make us more mentally focused when we listen to a podcast or lecture without any distractions or pauses. Recognizing the essential role of listening in language acquisition, educators and learners emphasize the need to prioritize and cultivate strong listening skills.

### **Main body:**

Listening comprehension is one of the key features of language learning, especially in English. There are different definitions of the term “listening comprehension “. Listening comprehension is the different process of understanding the spoken language. These include knowing speech sounds, comprehending the meaning of individual words, and understanding the syntax of sentences. According to Hamouda (2013), listening comprehension refers to the understanding of what the listener has heard and it is his/her ability to repeat the text despite the fact that the listener may repeat the sounds without real comprehension. (1)

One of the benefits of focused listening is vocabulary expansion.

Listening to learn a new vocabulary has several benefits. Firstly, vocabulary knowledge is a prerequisite for listening comprehension, as it helps in understanding the meaning of words and phrases. Secondly, listening can



serve as a useful source for vocabulary acquisition, as it exposes learners to authentic language use and helps in grasp the pronunciation, grammar, and meaning of words. Additionally, research suggests that developing good listening skills can lead to more accurate reproduction of language, better understanding of grammar, and the development of one's vocabulary. Moreover, listening is a critical element in language performance and communication, as it is used more frequently than speaking, reading, and writing. Therefore, by actively listening and engaging in meaningful listening activities, learners can enhance their vocabulary, improve their overall language skills, and become more independent language learners. (2)

Moreover, listening plays a vital role in one's pronunciation as learners can realize their own pronunciation mistakes and they can work on correcting them. Also listening to native speaker's speeches can be beneficial to identify the rhythm of the second language. so, listening is a foundation for improving accent and pronunciation.

The objective of this research was to prove that using English songs could improve the pronunciation of the eighth-grade students at SMP Catholic St. Paulus Palu. This research applied a true experimental research design with 48 students as a sample. It was selected by using a cluster random sampling technique. The population was 72 students which were divided into 3 classes. The instrument of data collection was a test divided into pre-test and post-test. The data gathered were analyzed statistically. The results of the mean score of the pre-test in the experimental group were 38.05 and the control group was 29.30. The result of the post-test's mean score in the experimental group was 78.38 and the control group was 60.13. After doing treatment in the experimental group, the researcher found that there was a significant difference between students' mean scores (38.05-78.38). (3)

The best ways for improvement:

1. Engage in active listening to podcasts or English content daily.
2. Practice regularly, analyzing questions and answers systematically.
3. Develop note-taking skills while listening to aid in retaining main points and vocabulary.
4. Expose yourself to various accents such as British, American, Australian, etc.
5. Cultivate a habit of watching movies in English with subtitles to enhance listening and reading abilities.

Conclusion and recommendations:

To conclude, listening is as essential as other aspects of English such as reading, writing, and speaking. It can enrich your vocabulary or reduce your pronunciation mistakes. By listening to something in English every day, you can improve your overall understanding of the language.



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