CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

English has a very big role in communication, people use English to communicate in many different nations all over the world as we know that English is the international language and as a foreign language in Indonesia. English is also learnt as the compulsory subject from elementary school up to university level in which pronunciation is one of the language components of English. Pronunciation is the way people utters a word or language. It is important in communication because it helps us to communicate, how we speak and how we understand what other people speak. Some teachers teach English or even pronunciation as well by using English song.

As university students, especially in English Education Department the students will also learn pronunciation. As we know that pronunciation is one of the important aspects that will support our communication. When words are pronounced well, it will be easier to the other people to understand the meaning, but when words are pronounced incorrectly, it will change the meaning or even there is no meaning. As a result it makes people confuse about the meaning. So it is important to learn pronunciation. It is supported by Jessica, et al (2015), she stated that pronunciation helps the listener to understand words which are uttered by the speaker. if the speaker is not able to pronounce the English word
appropriately, the communication can not run well. Wong also added in Astuti (2014) he stated that “Even when the non-native speakers’ vocabulary and grammar are excellent, if their pronunciation falls below a certain threshold level, they are unable to communicate effectively.” Therefore, when we communicate with other people, we should not only have a good vocabulary but also have good pronunciation.

Learning pronunciation can be done with some ways. Some of them are getting the right pronunciation from the right sources. Electronic dictionary is one of the source of pronunciation. In order to get a good pronunciation, some of students are tought to listen to the electronic dictionary which provide the record of the speaker which pronounced the word correctly. By listening to the native they will hear right pronunciation. But learning pronunciation by electronic dictionary they only learn the pronunciation per words.

Beside that learning pronunciation can be done by listening to English songs which can be easily accessed from the internet. Nowadays everyone has known about English songs. It was because of the increasing sophistication of technology today. Almost every student from elementary until university students knows well about English songs. The thing that is amusing and relaxing while students listen to song help them reduce their boredom. Beside song can entertain us, it can be used to learn English as there are lyrics which consist of new vocabularies, new utterances and of
course pronunciation which is needed by the students in learning English. While song provide us with connected sounds not only per word.

Based on the explanation above, this study will try to find whether there is a correlation between the students’ listening habit of English songs and their pronunciation ability. And if there is a correlation between them, they can use song as the alternative source in learning pronunciation. That is why the correlation between students’ listening habit of English songs and their pronunciation ability will be investigated to the second semester of English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto in the academic year 2016/2017.

B. Reason for Choosing the topic

As in English songs not only we can sing the song or enjoy the song itself, we can also get the right pronunciation, new vocabularies, even the uncommon utterances. This must be a best way to learn English especially pronunciation by listening and singing English songs.

For this reason, the researcher wants to know whether there is correlation between the students’ listening habit of English songs and their pronunciation ability as students nowadays are highly exposed with English song.

C. Problem of the Research

Based on the statement above the researcher needs to answer the following question: “is there any significant correlation between the students’ listening habit of English songs and their pronunciation ability?”
D. The Aim of the Research

The aim of this research is to know whether there is a correlation between the students’ listening habit of English songs and their pronunciation ability at the second semester students of Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto.

E. Clarification of Terms

In order to avoid any other misunderstanding and to give clear concept about this study of the variable involved the following key terms should be defined:

1. Correlation study

Correlation study is a study with the main purpose is to find whether there is a correlation or not between two variables or some variables (Ari Kunto, 1995).

2. English song

Song is a part of music which contains lyrics being sung (Sari, Jati Endah et al, 2013). This research only focus on English songs which is consisting English as the language or the lyric.

3. Pronunciation ability

Pronunciation is the way in which a language is spoken (Hornby noted in Indramawan 2011). Pronunciation ability here means the result of the pronunciation test or examination.
F. Contribution of Research

This research are expected to give some positive effect or positive contribution for:

1. For teacher/lecturer

   The result of the research hopefully gives helps as the reference for the teachers or lecturers in considering the use of English songs to teach English.

2. For students

   The result of the research can be useful input for English students. They are expected to be able to get used to listening to English songs to improve their pronunciation skills.