

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

During the history of the language teaching and learning process, technology has always played a key role. In the twentieth century, a wide variety of electronic devices have been used in order to make the process of learning a foreign or second language easier in line with a new approach (Patel, 2014). This shows that the technology in the learning and teaching activity is connected one to another in this era. The technology is important and crucial for the process of teaching and learning in the second language learners.

In English, there are four basic skills namely speaking, listening, reading and writing (Baker, 2001). Beginning in the early 70's, Krashen (1996) brought attention to the role of listening as a tool for understanding and emphasized it as a key factor in facilitating language learning. Therefore, listening is the first skills of language which stimulates the other language skills. That is why listening should be mastered before someone wants to continue improving the other skills. Moreover, listening has appeared as an important component in the process of second language acquisition (Feyten, 1991, cited in Malkawi, 2010). Listening as one of the language components will help people to understand the meaning of language itself.

A digital language laboratory plays a vital role in 21st century language learning, and bears little similarity to the antiquated labs (Patel, 2014). A digital language laboratory provides some tools to increase the language skills of the students. In order to make a proper condition of experiencing the real listening exercise, the subjects of Listening 1 and 2 are held in Digital Language Laboratory in Widya Mandala Catholic University. Those subjects are held in order to give the real time condition of listening experience. The students can use Digital Language Laboratory not only for classroom activity but also for individual learning. In Listening 1 and 2 subjects, there are several exercises which are needed to complete as the exercise score. In English Department, listening subject consist of Listening 1 and 2 which take two semesters to finish. Listening 1 is held in the second semester and Listening 2 is held in the third semester. After finishing Listening 1 and 2 subjects the students rarely, even never, come to Digital Language Laboratory based on the attendance log of the Digital Language Laboratory. The usage of a language lab as one of the place to improve English language skills is not really understood by the student.

It is important to know the students' perception in order to know what DLL at Widya Mandala Catholic University is for them. After knowing the students perception, Digital Language Laboratory can analyze the reason why the students rarely come to Digital Language Laboratory. It will also help the Digital Language Laboratory to activate students'

interest and desire to develop their English language skills at Digital Language Laboratory. This research is conducted to know the perception of English Department students on Digital Language Laboratory in general.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

What is the perception of English Department students on Digital Language Laboratory?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to know the perception of English Department students and the head of Digital Language Laboratory on Digital Language Laboratory. Moreover, the next objective is to know whether Digital Language Laboratory is beneficial to improve language skills, especially listening or not.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The comprehension of the students' perception on Digital Language Laboratory acknowledge the students' needs and Digital Language Laboratory needs in the line of the steps of improvement Digital Language Laboratory's performance. This study will inform the reader about the use of Digital Language Laboratory. The information is about the benefit of using Digital Language Laboratory. The students will more concern of the benefit of taking Listening subject and gain their motivation to increase the other language skills by using Digital Language

Laboratory. For English Department at Widya Mandala Catholic University, it can also improve Digital Language Laboratory to be more dedicated for the students and the university.

1.5 Assumption

This study assumes that English Department students use Digital Language Laboratory to improve their listening skill. Listening subject in English Department is held at Digital Language Laboratory as a classroom. In addition to improve listening skill, the students come to Digital Language Laboratory and also the students are taught about Listening subject at Digital Language Laboratory.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

The basic theory of this study is how to know the perception of the students and how to elaborate their perception on Digital Language laboratory. There is also the theory of Language Laboratory in general, what should be provided in a Language Laboratory and the qualification of a good Language Laboratory. The theory of listening as the subject that using Digital Language Laboratory as the classroom in Widya Mandala Catholic University will be also mentioned in this study.

1.7 Limitation and Scope

This study is to observe the perception of English Department students on Digital Language laboratory. The subject of this study is

the students who have just taken Listening 2 subjects and who are still in progress of finishing Listening 2 subject. The perception is about the students' motivation to use Digital Language Laboratory. This study chooses Digital Language Laboratory at Widya Mandala Catholic University as the variable of the perception taken.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Listening is the ability to identify and understand what others are saying (Howatt and Dakin, 1974). This process involves understanding a speaker's accent or pronunciation, the speaker's grammar and vocabulary, and comprehension of meaning (Nurul, 2012).

A Language laboratory is an audio-visual installation used in modern teaching methods to learn the foreign languages (Deepika and Kaliarasan, 2012). Digital Language Laboratory is one of the laboratories for independent learning provided by English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University.

Perception (from the [Latin](#) *perceptio, percipio*) is the organization, identification, and interpretation of [sensory information](#) in order to represent and understand the environment (Schacter, 2011).

1.9 Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters, which are Chapter 1 until Chapter 5. The first chapter covers the background of the study, research

title, objectives, theoretical framework, significance of the study, assumption, limitation and scope, and the last is definition of the key terms. The second chapter covers the review of related literature and the previous studies. The third chapter discusses about the research method of this study. The fourth chapter analyzes the result of questionnaire and interview. The last chapter tells about the conclusion and suggestion.