

GOOD HABITS AFFECTING ENGLISH LISTENING COMPREHENSION OF STUDENTS MAJORING ENGLISH AT TAY DO UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

Listening comprehension of English is a very important skill in assessing English language proficiency of learners. Unfortunately, English learners, especially students majoring in English at Tay Do University, have difficulty in learning, practicing and improving this skill. Therefore, a study named "Good Habits Affecting English Listening Comprehension of Students Majoring in English at Tay Do University" was conducted to find out the habits that have a positive influence on the listening comprehension ability of students majoring in English at Tay Do University. The main research tools that will be assigned to collect data are questionnaires and interview papers. The results of this study will show how the habits of listening to music in English, watching English movies and practicing speaking everything in English have an impact on improving students' English listening comprehension skills of students majoring in English at Tay Do University.

Keywords: *habits, listening comprehension.*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale

English is now regarded as an international language, spoken by millions of people around the globe. Nobody can deny that English has become a worldwide language as a result of globalization; it is now the primary language in many nations and is used in a variety of fields such as commerce, culture, politics, and finance. According to Kumar (2009), English is the most important language in the world since it is the only language that actually connects the entire world. As a result, it is easy to see why all businesses and corporations want their personnel to speak English as their primary foreign language.

Moreover, teaching and learning English is also very necessary in many schools and universities. So, in fact, English becomes one of the main subjects in education today. For students majoring in English at Tay Do University, listening comprehension is extremely important because they expect to use it frequently for their future work. Unfortunately, for many years they have been very good at realizing the correct use grammar, they can read and understand English but barely communicate in English. In fact, listening and understanding English has

become the most important skill because it shows English ability and knowledge of the speaker. When listening, some speakers seem to pay more attention to vocabulary and grammatical structures than listening comprehension skills. This leads to the fact is that some learners after a long time learning English find themselves unable to listen and communicate successfully.

Throughout the English learning process, it is realized that English-majored students, especially English-majored students at Tay Do University have to listen English as a part of their studying. Many students seem to lack the skills and confidence to listen English well. They know exactly what they want to do but their listening comprehension tests, their conversation does not go well.

So they can't get high scores. In communication, because they don't understand what the other person is saying, they can't answer correctly. That can make the other person feel uninterested, confused, unable to understand or misinterpret what they want to say, leading to a worse conversation as a result.

The above issues are the main concern of the researcher and also the motivation to carry out the research paper. The researcher conducting the study "Good Habits Affecting English Listening Comprehension of Students Majoring in English at Tay Do University." It is expected that this study will provide an overview of English learning habits, helping both teachers and students find appropriate and effective solutions to improve listening comprehension skills student's.

1.2 Significance of the research

This study mainly focuses on analyzing the influence of some English learning habits on English listening and speaking ability of students majoring in English at Tay Do University and through that, the researchers hope to help students find appropriate habits to practice listening comprehension skills in English effectively. Thanks to that, these English majors can improve their communication skills.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definition of Listening Comprehension and Its Importance in English

2.1.1 Definition of listening comprehension

Pronunciation is one of the subjects in English that each student has to learn at least one time. There are a lot of Communication is a necessary part of human life. It's a dialogue between the speaker and the audience (or between the speakers and the listeners). Listening comprehension is a necessary skill to be able to communicate effectively. Several academics in the subject have described the concepts of listening from different angles. It is finished with a large number of definitions for the term, some of which are included below.

Listening, especially in a foreign language, is one of the most difficult abilities to master and practice. When judging someone who knows a language, the most crucial talent that people look for is their ability to listen. According to Howatt and Dakin (1974), "listening is ability to identify and understand what others are saying. This process involves understanding a speaker's accent or pronunciation, the speaker's grammar and vocabulary, and comprehension of meaning". An able listener is capable of doing these four things simultaneously. According to this definition, we need to hear different accents, hear different pronunciations, understand the grammar and understand the vocabulary of the speaker, then analyze the meaning and understand the meaning.

However, according to Buck (2001, p.247) "Listening is a complex activity that requires the listener to process the received data and audio signal and interpret it based on linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge language".

But according to Wipf (1984) definition, it is more complicated, specifically as follows "Listening is an invisible mental process, making it difficult to describe. Listener must discriminate between sounds, understand vocabulary and grammatical structures, interpret stress and intention, retain and interpret this within the immediate as well as the larger socio-cultural context of the utterance". According to Wipf, listening requires listeners to be able to distinguish the sounds of words, have knowledge of vocabulary, have grammar, and be able to analyze meanings in certain socio-cultural contexts.

In addition, there are many other definitions of listening, such as "the active and dynamic process of attending, perceiving, interpreting, remembering and responding the expressed verbal and nonverbal needs, concerns and information offered by the human beings" by Purdy (1991). Described listening as a set of activities that involve "the individual" is capacity to apprehend, recognize, discriminate or even ignore.

Following the preceding debates, listening is defined differently by each scholar and subject of study. It's also known as the process of hearing sound through the ear, then the brain analyzing and understanding what the speaker is trying to say in various conditions. Overall, listening is an essential requirement in daily life and learners who wish to become great listeners must put up the effort to practice this ability.

2.1.2 The importance of listening comprehension skill

We cannot deny that listening is important not just in everyday life but also in language learning. In real life, listening has a significant impact on a variety of industries. In other words, it plays a key role which can

determine the success or failure of every life aspect such as communication, negotiation, business, etc. This ability "places us in our everyday situations and allows us to sustain meaningful relationships with family, friends, and coworkers" (Michael P and Deborah B, 1997). People with good listening skills can avoid communication misunderstandings.

Listening comprehension skills require a lot of time. According to Flowerdew (1994, p.10) "Listening text exists in time rather than space". In reading comprehension skills, when we read an English sentence without understanding, we can read it again. But this is not the case in listening comprehension, there are situations that only allow us to listen once and have to understand their meaning immediately.

According to Hamouda (2013) "the person who learns English like a second language (EFL) often have problems with listening comprehension, because schools often pay attention to teaching grammar, reading skills and vocabulary. Technical listening ability is not emphasized in most teaching materials and teachers do not focus on developing skills this skill in the classroom." That has a negative effect on communicating in English in practice.

According to Mendelsohn (1994), listening accounts for 40% to 50% of daily communication activities; while speaking accounts for 25 to 30%; reading is between 11 and 16%; and write only about 9%. So when we cannot understand, we cannot communicate effectively.

The ability to listen is a crucial skill that students should not overlook. They will feel more secure and motivated when learning a spoken subject if they listen properly. So in English communication, listening is also the important skill.

2.2 Factors Affecting English Listening Comprehension

To be able to listen and understand. Listeners need to understand each element that forms a complete English sentence. A grammatically correct English sentence is made up of words and phrases arranged according to the correct English grammar. Sentences are conveyed to listeners by pronunciation, expressing emotions with intonation and emphasizing main content with stress. And for a sentence to make sense, the content of that sentence needs to be formed on the basis of logical knowledge." It is recognized that "the process of listening involves understanding the speaker's accent or pronunciation, the speaker's grammar, vocabulary and comprehension of meaning" (Howatt and Dakin, 1974).

So vocabulary, phrases, grammar, pronunciation, intonation, accent and background knowledge are factors that affect listening comprehension skills.

2.2.1 Vocabulary, phrase

There are many different definitions of vocabulary. Corresponding to its special role in foreign language learning in general or English in particular, vocabulary has become a concern of researchers, teachers and learners. According to Ur, Penny (1996) "The definition of vocabulary is the words we teach and learn in a certain foreign language. However, a lexical unit can have a single word, it can also have more than a single word (phrase). It is a combination of two or three words or even multi-word idioms". So, words are small units of language. A lexical unit can be a single word or phrase and they all have meaning.

So what role does vocabulary play in listening and understanding English? Pyles and Anlges (1970) stated that "When thinking of a language, the first element that comes to mind is the word. The word is the core element of the language." They are the connection between sound and meaning so that we can communicate with others. They are also arranged to form sentences, communicative conversations, or discourses. That indicates that vocabulary is an indispensable factor in listening and understanding a certain language in general or English in particular. To be able to listen effectively in communication, we need to analyze the meaning of each sound we hear. Sometimes the sounds are separated into separate words, sometimes in phrases. Each word has a corresponding pronunciation, recognizing sounds and understanding the meaning of words and phrases is the key to effective listening comprehension in communication. As Meara and Jones's opinion (1988) "Vocabulary knowledge is heavily implicated in all practical language skills".

For a concrete demonstration, let's compare the difference in listening comprehension skills of a person with a rich vocabulary and a person with a poor vocabulary. With every word heard. People with a rich vocabulary will analyze and understand the meaning of words and phrases, then link the meanings and understand the speaker's meaning. Hence, effective communication. But people with poor vocabulary, it becomes difficult to hear the sounds and analyze the meaning. Because they do not know the vocabulary, the corresponding phrase of that sound. They cannot understand what the speaker is trying to say. As Troile (1976) asserted, "Vocabulary is most important for understanding and recognizing names of things, actions or concepts." This is a failure in listening comprehension skills. Therefore, for learners of English as a second language, it is extremely necessary to supplement and improve a rich English vocabulary.

2.2.2 Grammar

To create a complete and grammatically correct sentence, words and phrases need to be arranged according to a certain rule, and grammar is an indispensable element. Linguist F.de. Sausure has researched and reached the following conclusion about the definition of grammar: "Linguistic signals combine according to rules to form phrases, sentences, texts or bigger units taste has a meaning".

In listening comprehension skills, grammar also plays an important role. After listening to a sentence, we need grammatical knowledge to arrange the meanings of the words and phrases that make up the sentence. Thornbury and Slade (2007) believed that one of the students' problems in speaking is transferrin the first language into the second language which is done manually. It is easier to understand by taking the following example: a person with knowledge of grammar can arrange the meaning of each word or phrase that they hear and understand it completely, while a person with no knowledge of grammar cannot understand it. Person who no knowledge of grammar will have difficulty in associating the meaning of each word, each phrase. Or maybe learners have difficulty in listening comprehension due to the confusion of the grammatical structure of their mother tongue and English. As Haryanto (2007) asserted "One more mistake that learners often make is that they apply their mother tongue or their first language structures to structures of the foreign language which is different from their native language". Therefore, learning and cultivating knowledge of English grammar is extremely necessary in training English listening comprehension skills.

It is really difficult to be able to listen effectively without grammar knowledge. According to Ur (1996) "English learners often have difficulties in listening such as: need to listen many times to understand". One of the reasons for this difficulty is the lack of grammatical knowledge and the ability to reflect on grammar. So when doing exercises or communicating in practice, we have difficulty in listening comprehension.

As we can see, the grammar factor is a very important factor affecting the listening comprehension ability of English learners. We will not be able to listen and understand English effectively in communication without this grammatical element.

2.2.3 Pronunciation, intonation and accent

Before we get into the influence of phonetics on listening comprehension, let's first understand the concept of phonetics. Speech speed, pause, accent and rhyme are the elements that make up a person's pronunciation that directly affect his or her ability to communicate in reality.

Pronunciation plays a very important role in speaking and listening skills. Only a person with good pronunciation can hear well. When we pronounce it correctly, that sound is stored in our memory, until we hear the sound again we can distinguish them and understand their meaning. As Gilakjani (2012) "Learners with good English pronunciation are likely to be understood even if they make errors in other areas, whereas learners with bad pronunciation will not be understood, even if their grammar is perfect". When it comes to listening comprehension, Rubin (1994) pointed out "Characteristics of the listening passage such as speaking speed, pauses, stress and rhyme, the difference between first and second languages, ect." is an influential factor. According to Ur (1996), "English learners often face difficulties while listening such as: not recognizing the sounds that British people speak and not being able to understand when native speakers speak English quickly and naturally. All indicate that if we mispronounce, how do we recognize the correct sound in actual communication? Likewise, intonation and accent in our pronunciation also affect listening comprehension in communication. In addition, Ur (1996) pointed out that learners' difficulty in listening comprehension is "Needs to listen many times to understand". One of the reasons for this difficulty may be due to poor pronunciation by listeners. This also confirms the important role of pronunciation.

The speaker will emphasize, lengthen, raise or lower the volume when speaking to express the intention vividly. This proves that pronunciation, intonation and accent have a great influence on a person's listening comprehension skills.

2.2.4 Background knowledge

Background knowledge is an essential element in all areas of life. Problems always exist in daily life, to be able to solve problems, we need to at least know how to identify the problem, then we need background knowledge. In communication, we need to have basic knowledge about society, people, language, and culture to be able to properly understand the speaker's intentions. Like Wardhaugh (1986) affirmed that language and culture are related inextricably related, unable to understand and evaluate language beyond the element culture. According to Ur, Learners need to increase their learning to expand their socio-cultural knowledge related to the subject has heard, and at the same time accepts to understand part of the information, does not make requests capture all the information presented.

Like "Listening is not an easy skill to acquire because it requires listeners to make meaning from the oral input by drawing upon their background knowledge of the world and of the second language" (Byrnes, 1984; Nagle & Sanders, 1986; Young, 1997). And Rubin (1994) also showed that listener characteristics such as language

proficiency, memory, concentration ability, age, gender, ability to use first language, background knowledge have great influence on listening comprehension. It is easier to say that a person without basic knowledge of culture and society will not be able to understand the speaker's meaning.

2.3 Habits affect listening comprehension and the effect of habits on listening comprehension skills

2.3.1 Listen to English music

The habit of listening to music in English seems to be just a leisure activity, but this habit brings great influence to English learners, especially listening comprehension skills. This habit has positive effects on learning vocabulary, phonetics, intonation, accents and even background knowledge. By Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies 1 "Listening skill is one of skill in the English language that should be mastered. People who learn the English language should master the listening skill. To improve listening skill, people can exercise through listening English song because listening English song has the benefit to improve listening skill". As Meara and Jones's opinion (1988) "Vocabulary knowledge is heavily implicated in all practical language skills". Or as Gilakjani (2012) "Learners with good English pronunciation are likely to be understood even if they make errors in other areas, whereas learners with bad pronunciation will not be understood, even if their grammar is perfect".

Listening to a lot of English music means having a lot of exposure to English vocabulary. Each listening will be a chance to learn new vocabulary or it will be a review of the pronunciation and meaning of that word. Then helps us remember words longer, more thoroughly. This habit also exposes us to different grammatical structures at random. Help English learners add new knowledge about grammar and review the grammatical structures already learned. Listening to a lot of music with different content also contributes to the development of our background knowledge.

The habit of listening to music in English is both an effective recreational activity and an opportunity for English learners to improve, cultivate and develop vocabulary, phonetics, intonation, accents, and social and cultural knowledge. Vocabulary, phonetics, intonation, emphasis and background knowledge directly affect English listening comprehension skills. Therefore, the habit of listening to music in English has a very good influence on English listening comprehension skills.

2.3.2 Watch movies in English

Watching movies is an extremely popular leisure activity, but watching movies in English not only entertains you but also improves your English listening comprehension skills effectively. According to Ur (1996), "English learners often have difficulties in listening such as: Having the habit of having to understand all the words in a sentence to understand the content of the lesson". The listening comprehension difficulty he discussed will be improved by watching movies in English regularly. Just like the habit of listening to music in English, watching movies in English helps you have a lot of exposure to vocabulary, pronunciation, intonation, stress and even background knowledge. Learners have the opportunity to interact with new vocabulary, have the opportunity to recall the learned vocabulary, hear the correct pronunciation, practice grammar, increase their background knowledge. From there, develop learners' English listening comprehension skills. Watching movies in English also helps learners visualize more specifically by the images that movies bring while listening to music in English does not. By Danan (1992) "Watching movies in English can improve all English skills". According to Mary Underwood, to practice effective listening skills "Learners need to first apply listening methods that are used naturally in the process of listening to understand the mother tongue, do not stick to every word of the information heard". And watching movies regularly is a way to learn English that is similar to learning your mother tongue.

Therefore, it is undeniable that the positive effects of the habit of watching movies in English on the training of listening comprehension skills.

Every day, we humans communicate a lot. Learning English is also for daily communication purposes. To take advantage of the opportunity, many hard-working English learners have been thinking about how to say those common mother tongue sentences in English.

This habit helps them react faster in English communication. They do not need to associate the sounds of words, translate the meaning of each word and phrase in English, then use their knowledge of grammar to arrange their meanings. Now they remembered the meaning every day, we communicate with each other a lot, on a variety of topics. In the view of Anderson & Lynch (1988), there is a secret relationship between listening skills and speaking skills, between listening comprehension and reading comprehension, in which speaking is the result of following and understanding what is heard (Speaking results from the process of following and interpreting the listening input). Learning English is also for everyday communication purposes. To take advantage of the opportunity, many English learners have been thinking about how to say common mother tongue sentences in English. This habit helps them react faster in English communication. They don't need to associate the sounds of words, translate the meaning of individual words and phrases in English, and then use their knowledge of grammar to organize their meanings. Now they have memorized the meaning of the whole sentence, have a memory of words,

have good pronunciation, have good grammar reflexes, and have rich background knowledge. From there, listening and understanding English becomes easier and faster. According to Griffiths (1990) "Students who practice speaking in English have better ability to communicate, listen and understand English than students who do not practice speaking in English".

Therefore, building the habit of practicing speaking in English every day has a very positive impact on the listening comprehension skills of English learners of the whole sentence. Since then, listening and understanding English becomes easier and faster. According to Griffiths (1990) "Students who practice speaking in English have better ability to communicate, listen and understand English than students who do not practice speaking in English".

2.4 Previous studies

". Most errors are part of a pattern of mistakes that you repeat again and again. In fact, there have been many similar studies showing the benefits of routines for improving listening comprehension skills.

According to Indah Sari's research on about 183 English language students about the difference between students with and without the habit of listening to English music, the results are:"(1) the students who usually listen to English song belong to the good category. (2)The students who do not listen to English song do not belong to the good score". It means that there is significant difference of listening skill between students who usually listen to English song and do not.

In a study of 300 Sudanese students learning English, Ahmed (1989) found that "The good students' vocabulary learning method is not only more quantitative but also more diverse in genre than learning vocabulary. poor birth". This result shows that learning vocabulary in many ways is more effective. From there, it shows that learning in many ways also improves the listening comprehension of English learners.

Research by Sannoui (1992, 1995) has identified two different approaches to learning foreign language vocabulary. First, students who shape the vocabulary learning structure will independently participate in learning activities and practice the vocabulary they need to learn. And students who do not shape their vocabulary learning will not be independent. Research shows that at all levels of learning, students who shape their own learning are more successful than those who don't. This result proves that self-study by different methods is effective for improving vocabulary. Thereby improving the listening comprehension ability of English learners.

And the study by Ira Miranti and Nina Dwiastudy at Trampil with the topic "The Correlation Between Students' Habit In Listening Song And Students' English Listening Skill" concluded that: "we can conclude that the better of students' habit in listening song, the better students' listening skill".

In general, learning methods that have a positive effect on improving vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, stress, intonation and background knowledge are all capable of ameliorating learners' listening comprehension.

3. SEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research aims

This research was to analyze and find out beneficial habits for training listening comprehension of students majoring in English at Tay Do University.

3.2 Research questions

This research was required to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the factors affecting the listening comprehension of English majors at Tay Do University?
2. What good habits do English language majors at Tay Do University often apply in training their English listening comprehension skills?

3.3 Research design

Research was done to answer research questions and test hypotheses. Qualitative tool was used to find out habits that positively affected the listening comprehension of English language majors at Tay Do University. A number of students were randomly selected to answer the interview questions. Finally, data from the interviews were analyzed and concluded.

According to most English majors at Tay Do University, listening comprehension is one of the hardest skills to improve. Although they have studied English for at least six years in middle school and high school. Through questionnaires and research papers, a few good habits can be found to improve English learners' listening comprehension.

3.4 Research participants

The study was conducted with the participation of 10 students majoring in English from three specialized English classes 14A, 15B and 16B Tay Do University. Generally speaking, participants ranged in age from 18 to 21 years old. They all say Vietnamese is the mother tongue and English is the foreign language. Besides that, most of them come from rural areas and they have studied English at least six years. However, their backgrounds are quite similar because, under influence of previous high school listening comprehension programs, they did not there are

many opportunities to practice it. For this reason, when entering Tay Do University, their level of listening comprehension skills is limited and they face many difficulties in listening and understanding English as well as learning English. They were given interviews focusing on the influence and habits of English listening comprehension skills to collect data for research.

3.5 Research instruments

In this study, interview was the main tool. The paper-based interview was designed to get specific information from English major students about English learning habits that have a positive effect on listening comprehension. It consisted of 12 questions that focus on the effects these habits have. In summary, the purpose of this tool is to confirm the positive effects of these habits on the English listening comprehension skills of major students.

3.5.3 Procedure

Durations (12 weeks)	Activities in study process
Step 1: From the 1 st week to 4 th week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designing framework of the research - Getting the teacher's guidance - Writing chapter 1
Step 2: From the 5 th week to 7 th week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing chapter 2, 3 - Designing questionnaire - Asking the teacher for the permission of delivering questionnaire - Using the questionnaire to get information from participants
Step 3: From the 8 th week to 12 th week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyzing the data collected from the questionnaire - Writing chapter 4, 5 - Completing the paper

4. CONCLUSIONS

Listening comprehension skills are often recognized as an important and necessary skill in the process of learning a foreign language. However, if they want to understand English fluently, learners must have the right learning methods and habits. Therefore, students majoring in English at Tay Do University need to form the right study habits to improve elements such as pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar structure and background knowledge.

4.1 Listening to music in English

With the need to improve English listening comprehension fluently, English learners need to hone and improve their vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar and background knowledge. Applying the habit of listening to music in English regularly helps English learners have the opportunity to have more exposure to the English environment. The words that learners accidentally encounter in English songs will create opportunities for learners to know more new words, review known words, thereby improving learners' existing vocabulary. The way native singers pronounce words also helps listeners get used to the correct pronunciation of English sentences and words, thereby improving their listening comprehension. The stories in the song will help learners get in touch with a lot of information about the culture, society and people in countries where English is the main language. From there, it helps learners to improve their background knowledge. The way to divide tenses in different situations is an opportunity for learners to better remember the tenses, from which they respond better to listen and understand.

4.2 Watching movies in English

Small habits repeated every day can have big effects. Similarly, the habit of entertaining by watching movies in English brings great benefits to the practice of listening and understanding English habits. The random exposure to English vocabulary, English grammar structure, background knowledge will help learners consolidate known knowledge and learn more unknown knowledge. From there, enrich the English vocabulary, English

grammar and background knowledge of learners. In addition, learners will hear the correct pronunciation often. From there, learners will improve their own English pronunciation. The developed vocabulary, grammar, knowledge and pronunciation will improve learners' listening comprehension skills. Therefore, according to researcher, learners should adopt the habit of entertainment by watching movies in English regularly.

4.3 Practicing speaking English in everything

English learners use English for the purpose of listening, understanding and speaking everyday sentences in English. Practicing saying things in English will help learners achieve that goal effectively. The fact that learners recall learned words, learn unknown words, divide tenses, arrange the order of words in sentences, pronounce or apply background knowledge to speak each complete English sentence all help improve their vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and background knowledge. From there, learners' listening comprehension ability will be improved.

On the whole, based on the issues mentioned in the survey, the researcher hopes that learners can find and apply study habits that bring positive effects to English listening comprehension skills of students majoring in English at Tay Do University.

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