

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

The main language skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They are all important to improve learners' English competence. As the language skill, listening is a skill that is felt difficult to be mastered. It needs more attention and concentration to recognize and even more comprehend the sounds than the context (Mee, 1990).

Listening is considered as receptive skill, in which people need the ability to receive spoken language. In Indonesia, listening is one of the aspects that will be tested in final examination especially in senior high school (SMA), thus this skill must be practiced many times. But in the teaching and learning, as the writer experienced, teachers did not provide the instrument and facilities to develop students listening skill. So when students faced listening section in final examination, it was very difficult for them to catch the words that they heard. They could not finish the test very well. Because of that, the writer believes that one way to check the students listening skill is filling the missing word on text of English song.

According to the writer observation, the listening skill of the eighth grade students at SMP N 5 KUPANG was still low. They had enough difficulties in understanding the audio. It could be seen from their result of the listening test.

Based on the observation in the classroom and the interview with the teacher and the students, the writer found that the teacher rarely gave the students listening exercise. This was because of the lack of the media (audio, speaker, etc). When the writer had PPL program, the writer found that the students had their first listening exercise.

Based on these problems, efforts are needed to be done to help the students get more enjoyment and successful in developing their listening ability. Therefore the teacher needs an appropriate technique to stimulate the students' motivation and interest in learning listening skill.

Why does the writer used song? Because in fact, song is one of the things which is mostly liked by people, the babies, the children the young until the old people. Almost everyone loves songs. It is a part of our language and life from birth onwards. When we were babies, we often heard our mother and father sang a song to lullaby us in the bedroom. In listening English songs, we can listen to pronunciation of words and sing along with the songs. Listening to English song is felt more interesting from other activities. English songs are great language package that bundles culture, vocabulary, listening, grammar and a host of other language skills in just a few rhymes. Song can also provide a relaxed lesson on a hot boring day. It can also form the basis for many lessons (Futonge, 2005).

Using songs in classroom is a great way to live up listening activities. They think that music in their inspiration to get something better in their life. Sometimes, they felt bored, sad, lazy, and bad feeling in doing something. So, the writer chooses song as her tool to the test of the students' ability in listening. Listening

can serve the further function of letting the students hear the vocabulary items and structures which are familiar to the listening.

Here, the writer wants to focus on the development of students ability in filling missing words on the song text. Therefore, based on the background the writer will conduct a study about “ **An Analysis on the Listening Ability of the Eighth Grade Students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in the School Year 2016/2017**”.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

This study was conducted in order to answer two questions as shown in the following:

1. Are the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang able to complete and fill in the missing words when listening to English song ?
2. What is the ability level of the eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in completing and filling the missing words when listening to English Song ?

## **1.3 The Objective of the Study**

The questions above the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the ability of the eight grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in completing and filling the missing words when listening to English song ?
2. To find out the ability level of the eight grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang in completing and filling the missing words when listening to English song ?

#### **1.4 The Significance of the Study**

This study has some significance for the teacher, the students, and for the readers. They are in the following:

1. For the English teachers at the researched school, they can know their students ability, so that they can improve their listening ability.
2. For the Writer, through this study the writer can enrich her knowledge in making a thesis to be the partial requirement of the degree of Sarjana Pendidikan and she knew more about listening.
3. For the students, they can know their ability in filling the missing words by listening.
4. For Other/ Researchers, The result of this study can become good information for them to be the material for the review of related studied of their studies or researches.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This study was about listening ability of the eight grade students of SMP Negeri 5 Kupang. There are several types of listening, such as: informative listening, relationship listening, appreciative listening, critical listening, and discriminative listening. In this study the writer used appreciative listening., The writer just limited her study in filling the missing words in the blank spaces of the text. The subjects of the study filled in the missing words of the songs. The song is “Fight Song” by Rachel Pattern. This song is popular, the song uses the word that can be understood easily. The students are expected to predict the words that should be filled in the blanks.

## 1.6 Definition of Terms

This section offers the definition of some terms related to the topic in order to help readers to understand this writing.

### 1. Ability

Ability is a potential capacity or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby, 1987: 2). Dealing with this study, ability means the students capacity in filling the missing words when listening to an English song.

### 2. Filling the missing words

Filling the missing words means putting the words into specific construction to make it meaningful. In this case, the students are expected to fill the blank spaces with the right words.

### 3. Texts

A text is a sequence of paragraph that represents an extended unit of speech (Richard 1985: 123). In this study, text means that tools to measure the students ability in filling the missing word.

### 4. Listening

As defined by Hornby (1993: 206), listening is a complex problem solving skill and it is more than just perception of the sounds. Listening is making an effort to hear something. For example : listen to the radio, tape. In other words, listening is to pay attention.

### 5. Appreciative listening

Includes listening tp music for enjoyment, to speakers because you like their style, to your choises in theater, television, radio, or film. It is the response of the listener, not the source of the message which defines appreciative listening.

That which provides appreciative listening for one person may provide something for else for another.

6. Words

Word is written or spoken unit of language: words are used in a piece of text or spech (Oxford Dictionary). In this study word means a piece of text or speech in English song that the students need to catch to complete the song.

7. SMP Negeri 5 Kupang

SMP Negeri 5 Kupang is one of the Public Junior High School in Kupang city which is located in Frans Seda street.