A Habitual Action of Listening to Songs in a Writing Class

Suciana Wijirahayu[1]
(Universitas Muhammadiyah Prof. DR. HAMKA, Indonesia)
Adji Saputra Sutiwan[2]
(Universitas Muhammadiyah Prof. DR. HAMKA, Indonesia)

*(sucianawijirahayu@uhamka.ac.id)

ABSTRACT

The behaviour of learners in listening to English songs will create a habit, or activity carried out periodically or repeatedly. Learners who always listen to English songs form habitual actions that may affect their language learning process, especially vocabulary acquaintance. The habit of listening to English songs offers occasions to learn the language. The learners who have the habit of listening to English songs will have more vocabulary since they are used to listening to many words in the lyrics. Mastery of vocabulary in writing is essential. Writing is one of the complex language skills because it involves the ability of writing techniques and language skills. With poor vocabulary mastery, students find it difficult to string words together to make a sentence because they lack the vocabulary to represent their writing. Students with good vocabulary mastery were able and easy to string words. They can determine diction for their writing.

Keywords: vocabulary mastery; habit of listening to the song.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, learners often listen to English songs to release burnout and monotony. They can access English songs from multiple platforms on their smartphone, laptop, and others. Griffee (1988) said, "Song is part of music that you sing through words." A song comprises several elements, namely rhythm, vocals, and lyrics. In classroom practices, a song is part of the pedagogical approach (Ng & Chu, 2022). It means they can discover new words by the lyrics and learn how to pronounce them by listening to an English song. They can use English songs as a medium of learning that is not boring to get students' interest. Learners can learn and improve their vocabulary by listening to an English song.

The behaviour of learners in listening to English songs every day will create a habit. Habit is an activity or behaviour carried out periodically or repeatedly. The habit of listening to English songs offers occasions to learn the language.

Vocabulary has a vital role in language learning. When students learn a language, it means they will learn the vocabulary of that language. In outline, vocabulary is the basis of learning a language, especially English. Learners must master vocabulary to find the right words to express ideas.

Mastering vocabulary is knowing and understanding what a word means. Vocabulary Mastery helps learners develop their skills in language learning because students will use it to read, write, listen and speak. Students with good mastery and the capability of using vocabulary will be easier to write, speak fluently and accurately, or understand what they listen to or read.

The mastery of vocabulary in writing is beneficial since writing is one of the complex language skills. It involves the ability of writing techniques and language skills. With poor vocabulary mastery, students find it difficult to string words together to make a sentence because they lack the vocabulary to represent their writing. Students with good vocabulary mastery would string words even further and can determine diction for their writing. How do the students in a scientific writing class perceive the habit of listening to English songs in this study to vocabulary mastery?

METHOD

Thirty-one pre-service teachers in a scientific writing class took part in this study. The population is all subjects who can provide research information. Cluster sampling is a probability sample collection technique in which a subgroup blends homogeneously, but within the cluster itself, each individual is different.
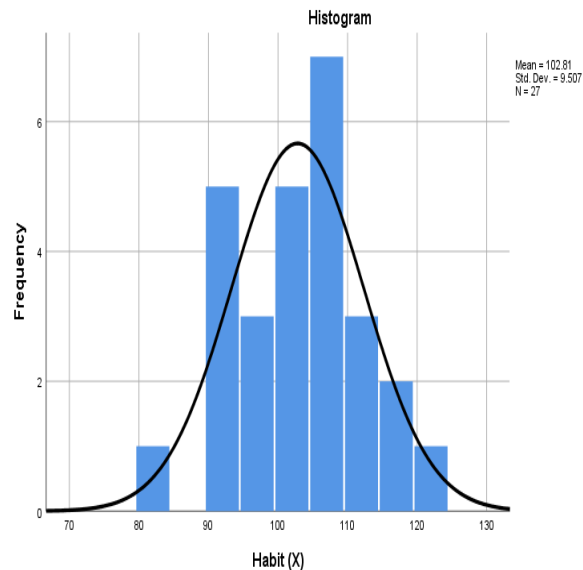
The habit of listening to English songs referred to in this research is a way to learn language skills with the help of listening to English songs. We can measure the habit by using a questionnaire. It is to collect data about the students' perception of listening to English songs. The questionnaire is a list of questions provided to the respondents as requested by the researchers. There are 28 items about the habit of listening to English songs. They also measure attitude, opinion, and perception based on the object or phenomena.

Vocabulary mastery is the ability to know words that have meaning. It can be a tool to communicate or express an idea. To master the vocabulary, learners use it according to the situation, context, and meaning of words. The data of the vocabulary is after they do the test. The researcher used the final results on their online academic reports. So we obtained data which completed, valid, and not based on estimates.
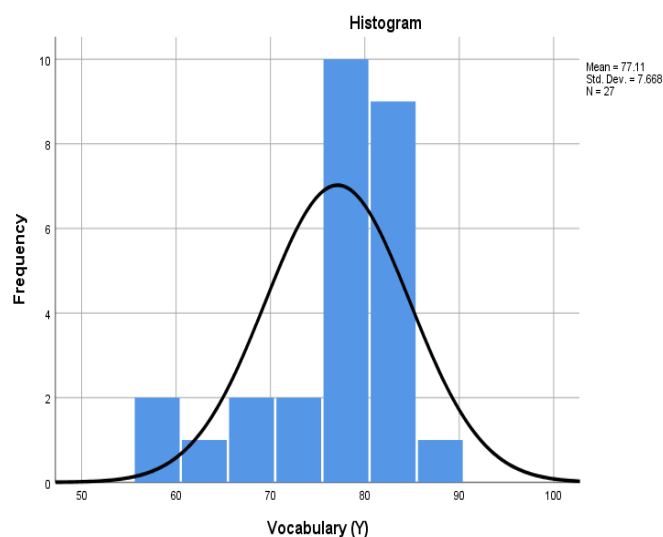
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Habit is behaviour repeated until it has become automatic, enacted without purposeful thinking and a sense of awareness. It means that habit is an action that is repeated and continuously performed unconsciously. Neal (2015) stated clues trigger unconsciously defined habit as a learned, reflex-like behaviour in a context (physical setting, other actions in sequence, time of day). Teachers' beliefs in using media to develop good habits support the learners in applying strategies in reading and writing in the framework of critical thinking (Wijirahayu, Priyatmoko, & Hadianti, 2019). Habitual action performed by the learners in supporting their achievement in

language learning by using a media that is easy to access is beneficial to develop their autonomy and motivation. The learners in this study made use of listening to songs as their habit to overcome their boredom to have better vocabulary mastery.

Figure 1. The Habit of Listening to English Songs of the Students

Darnton (2011) has two perspectives on habit. The first comes from the social psychology disciplines. It is a psychological order capable of affecting behaviour. Second, in the sociology discipline, habit is a routine practice. It means habit is psychological pressure. A good attitude in language learning supports Affective strategies and creates better achievement (Wijirahayu & Dorand, 2018). Therefore, better teaching performance is beneficial to provide effective interaction in classroom practices (Widya, Fatimah, & Santiana, 2020).
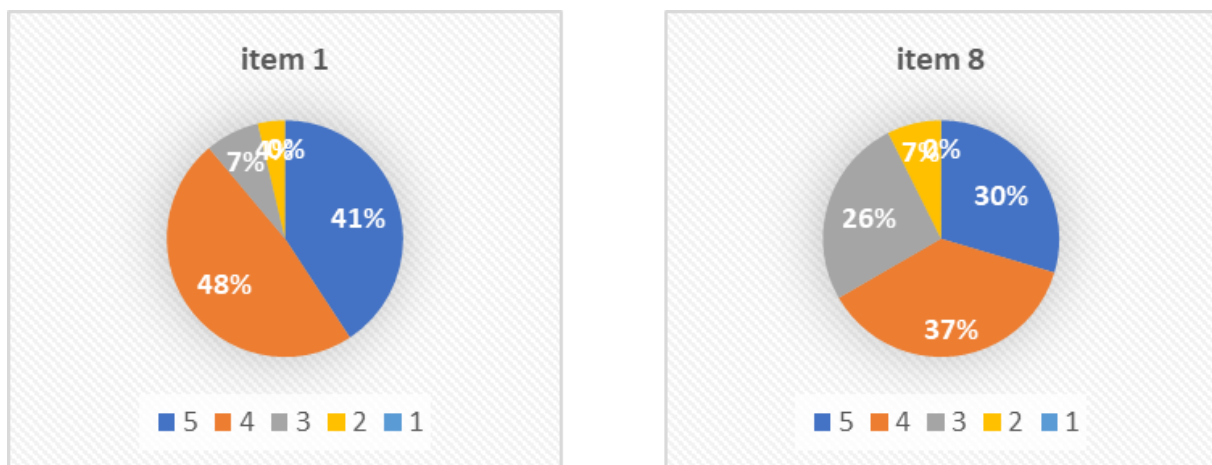

Figure 2. Vocabulary Mastery of the Students

Hasan and Nanang (2016) argued about vocabulary mastery, a significant contribution to writing ability in descriptive text. Therefore, the students should expand their vocabulary to create good writing. Students who want to write well should have good vocabulary mastery. Vocabulary is one aspect of learning to write. Anggraini (2020) stated about the use of vocabulary in writing news. The students also need to master it. Variations in word usage influence the number of that everyone has, including news writers. Collaboration is one of the ways to optimize the comprehension gained from the text to increase vocabulary mastery (Wijirahayu & Armiati, 2020).
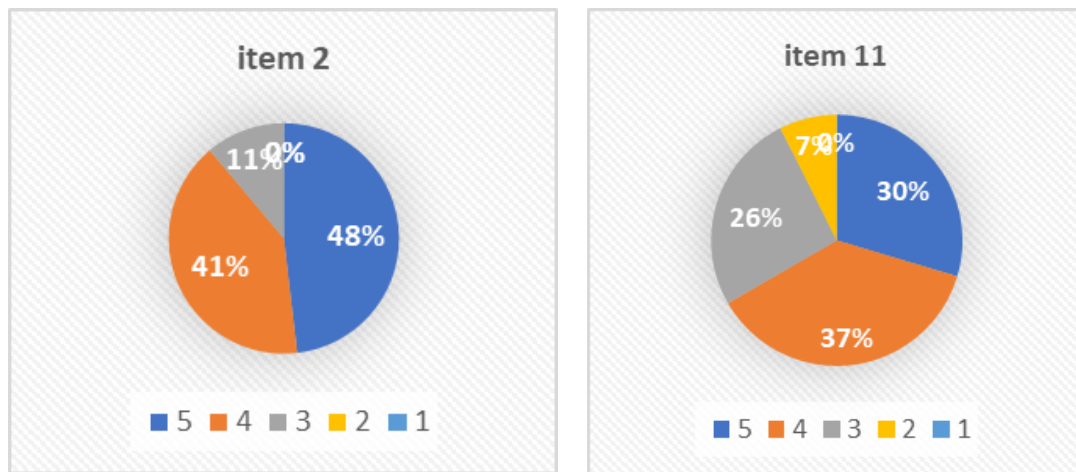
The mastery related to writing. The students cannot write well if they cannot develop their idea because of limited vocabulary. Therefore, the students should expand their vocabulary. They cannot create good writing because they cannot develop their ideas. It is because of limited vocabulary. Reflective practice is analyzing and making judgments about what has happened in the classroom (Santiana & Fatimah, 2018). In the scientific writing class, reflective practice is necessary to motivate the students to gain more vocabulary in academic writing to achieve the instructional objectives.

From the concepts, students who take the writing class must have fulfilled the vocabulary building class and have the result of the vocabulary building class. The writer used that to measure the student's vocabulary mastery. Anticipatory learning strategies helped the students develop their vocabulary and improve their English proficiency (Marzuki, Santiana, Alek, Darmawati, Bin-Tahir, 2021).

Figure 3. Frequency of Listening to Song (item 1) and English favourite song (item 8)
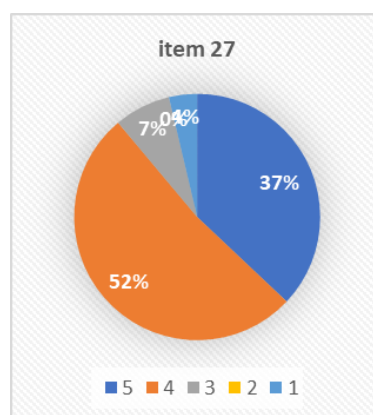
For item 1 (in Figure 3), the students usually listen to English songs. Figure 3 shows that the students like all English songs, including my favourite songs. Listening to English songs offers two main advantages. It is highly memorable and highly motivating for young learners. The habit of listening to English songs means listening and paying attention to English songs repeatedly in daily life. There are three indicators of the habit of listening to English songs: a) Repetitive action b) Attention c) Getting the meaning.

**Figure 4. The Source of the Song (item 2) and
Listening to Songs and the Attention to the Meaning (item 11)**

Item 2 (in Figure 4) shows that the students usually listen to English songs on Spotify, JOOX, YouTube, Radio, and MP3 players. Online music is music everyone can access through the internet. It is easy for music fans to listen to songs of their favourite musicians to discover new songs that are not yet known. Technology advancement contributes to the education system and learning process (Dewi, Zaim, & Rozimela, 2022). They can access a piece of online music on various media, such as YouTube, smartphones, online music applications, and others. The findings from the figure expressed the enthusiasm of the students. They made use of online music from various sources (89%). The advancement of technology makes it more flexible to access the students' favourite songs.

Item 11 (in Figure 4) shows that the pre-service teachers often listen to English songs and look at the meaning of the song when they're playing them. As the students listen to the songs, they follow the lyrics and the rhythm. It helps students catch the word in English easily. That is sensitivity to rhythm is a necessary first step in learning a language. This is one of the strategies the students chose to gain more vocabulary and enjoy the song rhythms. These are the strategy the students gained more vocabulary and enjoyed the song rhythms. The mindset of the teachers in applying various learning strategies in classroom practices is necessary to support creativity (Wijirahayu, 2022).
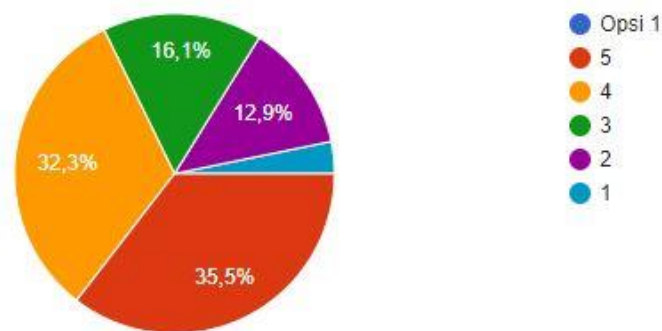

Figure 5. Listening to Song and Vocabulary Mastery (item 27)

Item 27 (in Figure 5) described the students' new vocabulary when listening to English songs. Hatch and Brown (1995) define vocabulary as a list or a set of words for a particular language as a list of words that an individual speaker might use. Songs as the media could facilitate the teaching-learning process, and the selection of it also influences the interest in learning. Besides, teaching vocabulary through songs improved the vocabulary. It also increased motivation. The students were enthusiastic about following the activity, such as singing, finding the meaning, and identifying and memorizing the words. So, it can be the factor the scientific writing class mastered vocabulary from their habit of listening to an English song.
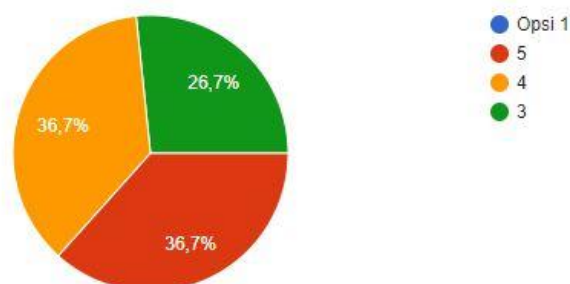

Figure 6. Studying while Listening to Music (item 4)

Alqahtani (2014) defined vocabulary as words we must know to communicate effectively; words in speaking (expressive vocabulary) and words in listening (receptive vocabulary). It means that vocabulary is essential to make people able to communicate with each other. Hiebert and Kamil (2005) stated that vocabulary is the knowledge of the meaning of words. Knowledge of words comes in two forms: Oral and print. Oral vocabulary is the set of words that is meaningful to speak or read orally. Print vocabulary comprises those words for which we know the meaning when a person writes or reads silently. It means that vocabulary is the meaning of words knowledge in oral and written forms.
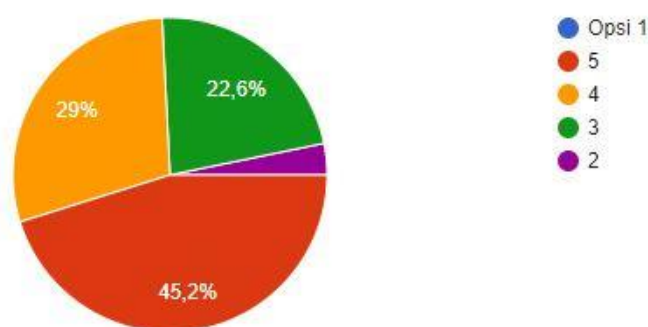

Figure 7. Listening to English Song & Fatigue and Boredom (item 19)

Listening to the songs is beneficial to relieve fatigue and boredom. That was from the participants' responses in this study (73%). It is promising, especially if it motivates the learner of English to pay attention to the lyric of the song. Reading motivation reduces writing anxiety (Wijirahayu, Kamilah, 2021). Vocabulary in this case is knowledge of words that have meaning. It is to learn a language found in a book and other sources and to express ideas. The participants in this study enjoyed the rhythm to make them more relaxed in their academic activities. Low anxiety will increase writing achievement.
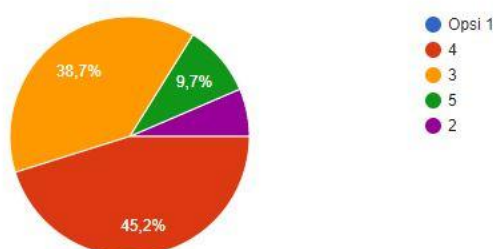

Figure 8. Listening to Favourite Song (item 23)

Vocabulary in a favourite song can be a tool to express or communicate the learners' ideas. More than seventy percent of the respondents in this study admitted the role of their favourite song in colouring their activities. Literary works from Indonesian local wisdom are one of the sources for the students to develop their Literacy by expressing their ideas in English (Wijirahayu & Muliya, 2022). Besides, the students have more knowledge about words and their meanings, and they can learn about word formation and grammar. Vocabulary mastery is the basis for students to master other skills in learning English. Those who attained more advanced L2 lexical proficiency demonstrated more relevant experience (extensive immersion and earlier age of arrival) and more precise auditory perception ability (Saito et. al., 2022).

Figure 9. Immediate use of new phrases (item 28)

A new vocabulary in a form of phrases is a subject that learners must learn to encourage their abilities in their English learning process. Vocabulary is all the words that a person knows. Almost seventy percent of the pre-service teachers in this study admitted that they could use the new phrase they learn from listening to English songs and that is a good start for motivation. During the Pandemic of Covid-19 and hybrid learning, listening resources were beneficial to post online platforms (Wijirahayu & Larasati, 2022). Vocabulary is a list of words and their meaning, especially in a book for learning a foreign language. It means that vocabulary is a piece of knowledge about a list of words and their function.

CONCLUSION

The challenges of the scholars of EFL learners are delicate literacy generalities, tedious literacy styles, and their unsound supportive terrain. Thus, the lecturers must have an innovative literacy approach system to get learners' interest. Listening to the song is one way the learners in this study used to motivate themselves in learning English. In this globalization period, technologies impact mortal life. Everyone uses technology, and pre-service teachers can take advantage. Technology has a role in developing literacy. It is like using online English songs as media to improve their capacities. In a scientific writing class, exploring new vocabulary is essential to support the quality of the products. The habitual action of the pre-service teachers in listening to online songs in this study encourages them to be more relaxed to have better productivity in academic writing.

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